

F A B L E S

CALCULATED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT and INSTRUCTION of
Y O U T H;

Originally dedicated to

A YOUNG PRINCE,

For whose Improvement they were written.

TAKEN FROM THE FRENCH.

Let mortals learn,
When in obedience to the Gods they tread
The doubtful paths of destiny, to affront
The dreadful dangers with undaunted spirit;—
Let them not, even in worst extremes, despair;
For while they keep to virtue's narrow paths,
With guards invincible they march surrounded:
The Gods who surely guide them on their way,
From them no more than from themselves can stray,
For virtue's of divinity a ray!

T A U N T O N :
PRINTED and SOLD for the TRANSLATOR,
By J. POOLE:

SOLD also by SCATCHERD and WHITAKER, Ave-Maria Lane, and
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M. LUCKMAN, Coventry, and by other BOOKSELLERS.

M DCC LXXXIX.





P R E F A C E.

THESE valuable FABLES were first printed by a Bookseller, who, devoid of all Ambition, centered every wish within the bounds of mediocrity, and contented with acquiring, by his Trade, a competency, neglected to exert those sanguine endeavors in extending that unlimited circulation of them, to which their merit so justly entitled them: it may therefore be said, with great propriety, that they are presented to the Public, as a new Work, well deserving the attention of all those any way interested in the Education of Youth, and particularly so of Parents, whose tenderness would render them desirous of conveying Instruction in the most pleasing manner.

who are

from their merit they were so
A2 Fables
Justly entitled.

Fables possess this advantage over every other work of a light kind, that they are always new ; —always entertaining to the young, and always approved of by the old, as the easiest and most agreeable channel through which they can, without appearing in the forbidding character of a Censor, correct many Faults, and sow the seeds of every Virtue, at the earliest period of life ; a period when the Judgment is too weak to bear a stronger cultivation, or to feel the more forcible incitements to Virtue.

The



The EDITOR's ADVERTISEMENT,

IF the Roman Laws decreed an Oaken Crown to those who should be fortunate enough to save the Life of a Citizen, surely some regard is due to those Booksellers, who, in reviving the Writings of Authors whose Works tend to the improvement of the Mind, and to the correcting the Errors of the Heart, perform a public Service. Next to saving a Life, should be esteemed the rendering that life an Ornament to Society.

In these Fables Youth will not only find the strongest Incitements to Virtue, but the soundest Maxims of political Wisdom; and at the same time that they inculcate these, they support, by Example, the strictest adherence to the dictates of Religion.

They will warn Young Minds against the Artifice, Cruelty, and Ingratitude to which the depravity of Human Nature is subject. The Reader will also find, in most Instances,
that

that the Punishment closely follows the Crime ; where it does not,—where they see the Innocent fall Victims to Villainy, (which is sometimes permitted, no doubt, for wise purposes) it will, by interesting their Feelings in favor of the unprotected, make them more sensibly feel, and consequently, more warmly cultivate the love of Justice, and render them acquainted with the Human Mind ; a melancholy, but necessary Knowledge, which it has been the endeavor of the Author to render as agreeable as possible ; cloathing Advice and Instruction under the fascinating appearance of Fiction, that it may steal on the Mind with the insinuating mildness of Friendship, instead of enforcing itself with the severity of Wisdom

The ardent Wish of becoming serviceable to my fellow-creatures, enabled me to overcome the very great Difficulty which attended the reviving a Work so very obsolete, both from its great Age, and the roughness and vulgarity which prevailed in Publications of the barbarous period at which it was written ; and the many Errors in the language, which has since been so much improved, and so greatly refined : But where I could, with any propriety, leave Expressions, whose originality and force I feared to lessen by correction, I have done it, though entirely contrary to the Style I should myself adopt.

It was unnecessary to make any further alteration than what would render it unexceptionable to the generality of the world ; and in many parts there was no other employment for my pen than to give a more easy flow of Words to the same Sense, which the change of Style in the present Age had rendered stiff and obscure. I by no means claim any Merit, but what the well-judging will deem me deserving of, for rescuing from oblivion, Fables so calculated for Youth, by blending Instruction with Amusement.

The



THE TRANSLATOR'S ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Motives which induced the Editor to undertake the arduous Task of reviving so old a Work, (almost consigned to oblivion) actuated the Translator to attempt the less difficult one, of presenting it in English, for the Amusement of Children, too young to have acquired a sufficient Knowledge of the French to profit by so excellent a Work; and to extend its Usefulness, by rendering it intelligible to those who are not to be instructed in the French Language.

These Fables were printed in *One Thousand, six Hundred, and fifty nine*, and from their Antiquity, claim the Merit of all their Beauties being Original.

F A B.

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F A B L E S.

F A B L E I.

The SHEPHERD, WOLF, and FOX.



Great humility in an enemy is always suspicious.

A SHEPHERD was very much surprised, one day, to see a certain animal
B mal

mal, which, on account of its distance, he could not perfectly distinguish, dance to the sound of his bagpipe. Some days afterwards it again appeared in the same dancing humour, but had scarcely continued this exercise half an hour, when the Shepherd saw, advancing towards him, a Fox, who gaily accosted him, saying; "that he had some news to acquaint him with, for which he hardly expected credit". The Shepherd lending an attentive ear, the Fox thus began:

"The Wolf most ardently wishes he could appease, with his blood, the hatred which has so long subsisted betwixt his race and those of your flock: His justice leads him to condemn the inveteracy of his relations, which blinds them to the good qualities of your sheep, and which has destroyed that charming, that social intercourse he is too sensible of not to esteem as highly valuable—as an acquisition the most desirable, with animals famed for their virtue, mildness, and humanity—animals who are the very emblem of friendship itself: Added to the above considerations, the irresistible, the fascinating power your bagpipe acquires from your unequalled skill and judgment, (that, even at this distance, the harmony is so exquisite he cannot refrain from dancing
to

to its heavenly sounds)—he is induced to request, by me, the honor of paying his respects to you, and reconciling all ancient feuds and animosities; living in future, in a mutual interchange of kindnesses and civilities:—I'll pawn my honor” continued the Fox, “you will thank me, some time hence, for bringing about a reconciliation which will secure to you an amiable and agreeable acquaintance; and above all, a sincere friend”.

“Though I have well-founded reasons for suspecting one who employs such an ambassador,” replied the Shepherd, (who had long known there was a strict league formed between them) “yet I by no means object to the overtures which the Wolf has condescended to make me: He is perfectly welcome to visit my sheep; to converse with them freely, and to dance undisturbed to the sound of my bagpipe, which will both do me honor, and give me pleasure; provided he will consent to come unarmed, proving his inclination to peace and a final cessation of hostilities, by leaving his teeth and his nails behind him, which are by no means requisite in conversation, or necessary in dancing”.

The Fox finding that all the art and flattery he had exerted, to seduce the Shepherd into a reliance on his professions, had only confirmed him in the suspicions he had entertained of his treachery, retired with precipitation.

M O R A L.

By the messenger you may generally judge of the good or bad intention of his employer.

FAB.



II. The PRINCE and The SILK-WORMS.



We too often fly from many things as inconvenient and disagreeable, which, upon reflection, we should find of the utmost utility,

A Young Prince, seeking shelter from the heat of the day in a valley planted with mulberry trees, found himself extremely incommoded by the path being entirely covered with the cods of Silk-worms, which lying in the form of eggs, prevented his walking with ease, from an apprehension of breaking them: The wind at the same time blowing some of the floss from the cods, against his face, became at last

B3

so

so troublesome as to deprive him of the pleasure and refreshment he had promised himself in his walk; and his patience being exhausted, he at last gave way to his peevishness, and with unmanly anger, kicked some with violence from the path, while others he crushed beneath his feet; when his attention was arrested by a sound issuing out of one of the cods, and he distinctly heard these words.

"Wherefore use, thus cruelly, those without whom you would be in want of that cloak which now decorates your shoulders, —without whom there would cease to be any distinction between you and the meanest of your subjects, who are coarsely cloathed in woollen. Know, Prince, that to the despicable insect, whom in your impatience you have annihilated with contempt, you are indebted, not only for the gaudy decoration of your person, but for some of the principal articles in that commerce which brings riches into your kingdom: —Silks, sattins, velvets, damasks and taffeties would not grace your manufactories, or support your dignity and rank, unless we existed to supply the silk.

Convinced

Convinced by this address, of the imprudence, as well as cruelty of his behaviour, this Prince by no means thought it a degradation to shew he repented of it as a folly, and regretted it as an unamiable license of temper, by his generous offer of having a place built on purpose near his own palace, where they might with more convenience spin their silk.

"We will obey you," answered a Butterfly, "but at the same time will fearlessly acknowledge (for we have not been bred at courts) that great as thou art, as a man and as a Prince, thou dost not possess the power of rendering us any service but that of leaving us to nature; who after having made us slaves upon earth, to perform that duty for which we were created, releases us from drudgery, by transforming us from caterpillars into Butterflies; giving us wings, and permitting us to seek our food and pleasure in another element".

M O R A L.

When reason blames you, never let obstinacy make you persevere in silencing her dictates.

III. The GARDENER and Dog.



The designing will pretend to an aversion they do not feel, to throw you off your guard, where they intend to deceive you.

A Young Woman who had lately become a Widow, and whose whole subsistence entirely depended upon the produce of her garden, was one day, when business made it necessary for her to leave it in trust, greatly distressed in whom she should place that confidence.

Among those on whose gratitude she had a claim, from the care and attention they had

had experienced from her, were a Fox, a Monkey, a Hog, and a Goat; each of whom thought himself most deserving of the distinction, and each officiously offered as the properest protector of her garden during her absence; alledging those reasons they thought most convincing, and vouching as proofs, what appeared to them to speak most forcibly in favor of their honesty and gratitude

The Monkey first addressed the Gardener. "Why feel distrust in me, whose worst enemy can only charge me with being roguish from an innocent vivacity, which sometimes may lead me into a little mischief that cannot materially injure any one, and has often been forgiven by you in consideration of the mirth it has created; but this should not impeach my honesty:—Depend therefore upon me, who have, besides, no inducement to pilfer you; since a few nuts or a small apple comprises all my wants and bounds all my wishes".

The Hog urged his claim on his want of taste, which led him to esteem that fruit as the most delicious which lies rotted and neglected under the trees, and which it would be doing a service to remove.

The

The pretensions of the Fox were founded on his known want of skill and agility in climbing, and his natural integrity; but what would be, if possible, to him, a more forcible incitement to honesty, was the very great respect he felt towards so amiable and charming a mistress, and the high sense he had of that goodness she had so often condescended to extend to him; these were ties which bound him with an irresistible force, that absolutely compelled him to exert the most ardent endeavors in strictly performing his duty; and which, on trial, would prove him the most faithful of her servants; an assertion he did not make through vanity, but from his conscience telling him it was a panegyric, justice herself, in her severest humour, would decree him as most truly his due.

“For my part,” said the Goat, “I have ever lived irreproachably, without either giving offence, or doing an injury to any one; added to that, nature, and custom, (half-sister to the former) prove me perfectly disinterested in offers of service, for no kind of fruit, let it be ripe or green, sweet or bitter, is ever allowed to form a part of my diet, which is confined to an handful of simple herbs, or a lock of hay and a little
grass

grass; therefore you may safely banish all fears that selfish motives might bribe me to forfeit your confidence.

"I return you all, my thanks for your several offers of assistance," replied the Widow; "but all your arguments and reasons, though each differing from the other, have failed in convincing me that either of you are entitled to claim the distinction you make pretensions to, or that you possess those qualities that should in themselves bear testimony of the confidence you deserve to have placed in you".

"The Fox, for instance, possesses so much cunning sense, shrewd artifice, and malicious craft, that would render it dangerous he should be trusted by a simple country woman, who is particularly open to deceit from her ignorance of the world and her depending upon the sincerity and goodness of her heart as the guide of her conduct".

"The Monkey is too expensive a guard; for not contented with being mischievously extravagant, in wantonly wasting the fruit, and destroying more than he eats, he carries a bag under his chin which he keeps constantly

constantly filled with whatever comes in his way ; of which, to do him justice, he is more a spendthrift than a glutton, but not less detrimental to my interest.

“ The Goat, it is true, does not eat fruit, but causes me a more irreparable injury in the destruction of my trees, by depriving them of their bark, and thereby killing them :—

“ And as for the Hog, the making choice of him would entail absolute ruin on me ;—to his gluttony he would sacrifice my fruit, and devour my vegetables ;—with his uncouth snout, root up more trees in a day than he would find planted in an acre of ground—and entirely demolish my garden in turning up the earth to seek under it for roots to satisfy his gormandizing appetite.

“ Therefore, the most judicious decision I can form, is to decline your various offers, and to determine in favor of the Dog, who equally as averse to the rind of trees as to all the other productions of a garden, can have no inducement to injure me, where no advantage can accrue to himself: His general character, for faithfulness of heart and intrepidity of spirit, confirms my hopes
that

that I may, without fear of repenting, depend upon his fidelity—trust with safety on his sagacity and vigilance for removing from my garden all those who have any suspicious appearance of evil intentions—and that I may implicitly rely on his undaunted courage in defending it, whilst he has life, against the most vigorous attack of the enemies of industry and honesty.

M O R A L.

The placing a blind confidence in domestics and dependents, argues a weak understanding, and is generally punished with insolence, ingratitude, a perfect confusion in your affairs, and very frequently, the total ruin of your fortune.

FAB.



IV. The PANTHER and the LION.



Ambition in an envious, turbulent mind, is the nurse of sedition and rebellion; and when united with power, the safety of the state requires its immediate extinction.

A PANTHER, who had looked forward with very sanguine hopes and pretensions of retaining the peaceable possession of a very considerable forest, the government of which he had for a long time usurped, finding the Lion had presented it to the elephant, and that he was expected to offer his immediate resignation, with all the respect and duty of loyalty;
unable

unable to bear the disappointment of long-indulged expectations, broke out into the most disrespectful and injurious expressions against his King, and the most violent threats of revenging himself (with the indiscrimination of narrow souls) on the new governor; swearing he would lie in ambush for him, and sacrifice him to his lost hopes; then working himself up to that pitch of frenzy, which makes impossibilities appear easy to be executed, he, with the rash presumption of madness, vowed nought should appease his anger, till he had extirpated every animal at variance with him in the forest, and laid it waste by the destruction of all its trees.

This violence was not confined to words alone, his destructive actions fully proved him serious in his determined cruelty, and having formed a league with some audacious rebels, he was soon strong enough to give chase to those he had devoted as victims to his disappointed ambition; which he did, with such successful fury, that it was found necessary, as the only means of securing the person of the Lion, to lay a trap for him; which being immediately executed, with a skill his ungoverned rage prevented him from being aware of, he, with several
others,

others, became prisoners. His friends (like all friends in guilt) finding themselves thus unexpectedly detected, sought their pardon, by meanly turning evidence against the Panther; and attributing their apparent treason to the cruelty and tyranny he had exerted to force them to a rebellion much against their inclination and which they most sorely repented of, recommended themselves to that mercy they would have proved themselves deserving of, could they have acted from the loyalty of their own hearts.

The accusation of the Panther's temerity and severe exercise of assumed authority, being corroborated by all the other animals, the Lion resolved to give his free pardon to the accomplices of the Panther, reserving for him the severest and most exemplary punishment; which in the heat of his anger, he was determined to see executed himself.

He had already arrived at the place of execution above half an hour, burning with the most ardent desire of vengeance, and impatiently expecting the moment when he could fully gratify it:—At last he saw the culprit advancing towards him with a step so slow and grave, accompanied with
such

such a conscious hopeless melancholy, it so sensibly touched his generous heart, as half subdued his anger; but when he beheld the extreme beauty of his spotted skin, every spark of revenge was extinguished within his noble breast, and riveting his eyes upon him, expressive of the highest admiration, he indulged them in the pleasure of beholding one of nature's most exquisite works, till he was unable to contain himself any longer:—

“Never, never shall it be said,” cried he, “I sentenced to death, an animal whose beauty is such an ornament to my forest; or that I wanted clemency towards one who possesses such great qualities and such rare endowments, as may, when he becomes sensible of his fault, render him one of the most valuable of my subjects. Release him! and may he be grateful for the life I give him; but let him carry that chain suspended about his neck, that I may have it in my power to take him with ease, should he ever be guilty of the same crime again”.

C

MORAL-

M O R A L.

Great abilities frequently prove a veil to great faults, and it is dangerous to suffer them to have too much influence; but Kings are sometimes obliged to silence justice, when the welfare of a kingdom, or the good of the community at large, might be benefited or supported by the exertion of great talents in an individual.



V. The GENTLEMAN and MONKEY.



Buffoonry, very frequently, gains more interest in the hearts of the great, than wisdom.

F A B L E.

A GENTLEMAN, who had amused himself for some time with the ridiculous tricks of a Greyhound Puppy, banished him on his committing the mighty crime of destroying, in one of his pranks, a pair of silk stockings. A Paroquet was next promoted to the honor of favorite, but ceasing to talk, from some complaint that attacked her, she was likewise discarded, and a Monkey succeeded her in her Master's heart; and as his only

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virtue

virtue was mischievousness, there was every probability of his keeping in favor as long as ever he could fawn, play, and distress others, without including his Master. "Do whatever you think proper," said he to him one day that he had particularly entertained him, "you have full liberty from me to follow your inclination in every thing, and to indulge your mirth, as whim shall direct".

This licence the Monkey understood in the full extent of the words, and he first availed himself of this permission by pinching the footman, scratching the pages, and throwing down the attendants, by slyly creeping between their legs, while attentive to their business; the wit of which appeared to his Master so poignantly diverting, that he daily increased in favor; which rendering him more boldly familiar, he requested to be permitted to sit at dinner on the corner of the table, which was immediately granted, with the additional indulgence of eating off his fond Master's plate. Perceiving the influence he had gained, and that all his tricks highly delighted and entertained his Patron, he thought he might gratify his inclination to dress his hair, which he was immediately

ly

ly allowed, with many applauses for inventing a joke so calculated to create mirth and laughter.

The Monkey persuaded that his liberty was unbounded, and that the more capricious and ridiculous he was, the more he raised himself in his Master's affections, no longer thought it incumbent upon him to obtain for his tricks, the sanction of the Gentleman's approbation, who suffered him still to commit, with impunity, every mischief he set his heart upon :—But the time of Pug's disgrace drew nigh ; his senses being intoxicated with praises of his wit and humour, and the unlimited freedom given to his wantonness, he flew upon his Master's shoulder, and after amusing himself, in jumping with great agility from right to left, and left to right, he sat some time considering what whim he should next indulge himself in, and looking on his Master with that contempt which such ill-chosen friends generally feel towards those who load them with obligations they are convinced they owe more to flattery and their patron's folly, than to their own intrinsic merit or his real friendship, the fancy took him to try the extent of his weakness, by snatching out several hairs from his Master's whiskers.

Surprise, for a moment, kept him silent! but pain recalling his recollection,—anger and revenge obliterated all remembrance of the pleasure Pug had afforded him, and deprived him of the power of reflecting, that he should condemn his own imprudent indulgence, which was alone in fault; but giving way to all the impetuosity of rage, he threw him to the ground, and after severely chastising him, spurned him from him with fury, vehemently forbidding him ever to presume to enter into his presence more.

M O R A L.

Friendship, formed inconsiderately, is a proof of a weak mind:—Sudden changes, not founded on substantial reasons, mark a levity of disposition;—let the great beware!—truth is difficult for them to find, and the phantoms of affection and sincerity often attend the coronet. Let the little also reflect, that favorites, who, forgetting their dependance, grow so boldly familiar as to take improper liberties with their masters, may always be sure, sooner or later, of being driven from their asylum with contempt and disgrace, subjected to the scorn and derision of the whole world.

VI, The LIONESS and Her WHELP.



As the lives, fortunes, and happiness of Subjects greatly depend upon their Kings, too much care and attention cannot be employed in sowing the seeds of virtue and humanity in their hearts—cultivating in their minds the love of honor and generosity, and creating in their souls the noble ambition of distinguishing themselves by justice and clemency.

F A B L E.

A LIONESS having, to the great joy of the forest, presented it with a young Sovereign, was immediately visited by all her subjects, who were impatient to shew their

their loyalty, by an early offer of respect. The Mule, stupidly slow in all his resolves, and negligent in all his duties, deferred it till it could no longer be accepted as a compliment, but rather as a disagreeable and inconvenient intrusion, which must interfere with more material engagements.

These reasons, which were urged to him as proofs of his being too late, were so many incitements to his obstinacy to present himself before the entrance of the royal cave, with the request that he might be admitted to pay his homage to the young Prince; but he was justly mortified at receiving for answer, that he could not be permitted that honor, as the Lioness was engaged in teaching her Son the use of his feet, endeavouring to throw an air of majesty into his gait, and learning him the art of blending in his deportment, that grace and dignity so becoming in a King—so fascinating and so successful in conciliating the affections, at the same time that it never fails commanding the respect of his subjects.

Some days passed before he made a second attempt to see the Lioness, when she was again denied to him. On his enquiring what engagements she could possibly have

have now, a large Dog, who guarded the entrance, replied, she was carefully instructing the Young Prince in the nobleness of his birth, which she at the same time was representing it as treason to disgrace, and endeavouring to rouse his emulation, by recording those honours which had dignified his line, and to which it is expected his soul will be gloriously ambitious of adding.

The third time he called, they informed him he had chosen a very improper time, as the Lioness was employed in that part of her Son's education which was the most arduous, and of the most consequence to himself and people,—acquainting him how he is to acquire the power of rendering himself dreaded by his enemies, and feared, yet loved, by his subjects;—exerting the utmost effort of her abilities to engraft in his soul, by precepts and examples, courage without cruelty; humanity without weakness; justice without severity; and above all, impressing his mind with a due sense of that duty which is imposed upon Princes, of dispensing rewards and punishments impartially to all.

“Well,” said the Mule, “here is great parade and ceremony indeed in the education

tion of a mere brute! —What a ridiculous affectation of weighty engagements!"—The Lioness hearing him grumbling as he was retiring, said, loud enough for him to hear, "that as by great care and attention in the education of young minds, preceptors were enabled to give strength to every natural virtue, and to root out all the baneful weeds of vice, too much time could not be devoted to the arduous task of forming the mind and cultivating the heart of the King of beasts; but reasons which would be understood and approved of by others, must be perfectly unintelligible to the contemptible faculties of a Mule,

M O R A L.

Those, who, being appointed to the sacred trust of superintending the education of Princes, are negligent in strictly performing their duty, should be declared enemies to the state—to their king—and to humanity,—and banished society, as the underminers of its peace,



VII. The Ass loaded with FLOWERS,
and with DUNG.



Look upon the soft perfume and exquisite beauty of the Rose, as the emblem of Virtue, whose attractions are irresistible; and on the Dung, as that of Vice, hideous, offensive, and disgusting.

F A B L E.

A GARDENER, had employed many years in cultivating a garden, and took particular pleasure in rearing all kinds of the most beautiful flowers, and bringing them to the highest perfection. On the day appointed to celebrate the honors of the goddess Flora, when the young

young men and maidens were obliged to appear in crowns of flowers, and to offer up wreaths and garlands on her altar, he indulged his fancy in forming the choicest productions of his garden into nosegays, garlands, and various other forms; in which he succeeded with great taste and elegance; and putting them in panniers on his As, carried them before the temple dedicated to Flora, to expose them to the village for sale.

The Roses, as he went along, sent forth a perfume so exquisite, that they acted as a supernatural attraction, insensibly drawing after them young and old men and women. The Gardener's success was beyond his expectations: no sooner were his merchandise seen, but customers presented themselves on all sides.

Having disposed of all his Flowers, and thinking it foolish to return home empty, he took the opportunity of loading back with Dung; and proceeding on, the As was very much surprised at finding himself avoided wherever he passed, and that those who were obliged to travel the same way, testified the most evident marks of disgust and contempt.

At

At a loss to conjecture the cause of so sudden a change, since the morning, when he was followed by crouds, with every appearance of the most lively pleasure, he addressed his master, requesting to know the reason, why, wherever he appeared, the people flew from him with eager haste, as if meeting him would give them pain : The Gardener soon cleared up the mystery, by informing him, that to the Roses which he had carried on his back in the morning, that respect was shewn, their perfume causing the delight the whole village testified on his approach ; but that now, on the contrary, he bore in his panniers a load, the stench of which rendered him so very offensive as to occasion the disgrace and neglect of which he complained.

M O R A L.

Thus a mind, suffering itself to be seduced from the paths of Virtue into those of Vice, degrades itself into a more insufferable nuisance to the hearts of the good and great, than the Dung can possibly be to the sense of smelling.

VIII. The EAGLE and Her YOUNG.



Young Princes who are too self-willed, and too vain to listen to the advice of the wise and experienced, often draw down danger upon their own heads, and destruction on their kingdom.

F A B L E.

AN EAGLE, mother of two young birds, whom she nursed and fed with great care and tenderness, found herself vehemently importuned by the eldest, to permit him to go in search of prey himself. It was in vain the Eagle represented to him that he was too young; that he had not yet acquired sufficient strength to resist the
attack

tacks, even of the weakest of his enemies; and entreated him to reflect, that he could not possibly make use of his wings, as they were yet scarcely fledged.

Deaf to the remonstrances of his Mother, and flushed with the self-conceit of youth, he was persuaded he could, if called upon to exert them, boast of courage, strength, and abilities to secure him success, victory, and fame; and became more earnest in his request; with which, the old Eagle, finding her arguments unattended to, at last complied; and, hoping to convince him of the tenderness and rationality of her advice, without making him pay too severely for his experience, she took him upon her wings, flying with him, till she came over a meadow, where the herbage was very thick and safe; then descending within a short distance from the ground, she gently launched him into the air, to make his first experiment.

His flight was not of long duration; his strength soon forsook him—soon brought him with violence to the ground; and though not materially hurt, he felt sufficient pain to make him repent of his rashness, and to promise never to make another

ther attempt, till his Mother should pronounce his wings equal to support him : However in a few days after, impatient of controul, and no longer feeling the pain resulting from his first imprudence, he again renewed his importunate request, that his Mother would at least permit him to follow her.

The old Eagle possessing a great deal of wisdom, finding him urge it with all the ardent obstinacy of youth, was apprehensive, that too strict a prohibition would irritate him to rush, with a headlong impetuosity, from his nest, in defiance of her commands ; she therefore softened her present refusal, by only postponing a compliance, till her return from seizing some prey, where, from his ignorance of the place, he would rather prevent than facilitate her success ; thus soothing him, she obtained from him an assurance that he would not make any effort to go from home during her absence : But she had no sooner taken flight, than a young Vulture, who had overheard the caution, and was bent on mischief, came to him and animated him to take courage, persuaded him he was wise enough to act for himself ; and roused his pride by contemptuously ridiculing

culing the absurd delicacy with which he was brought up.

Too weak to despise the irony of an evil adviser ;—too opiniated to believe his Mother wiser than himself, he was stung to the quick with an imputation on his strength, and courage, and immediately, forgetful of his promise to his Mother, quitted his nest ; but suffering himself to be carried by the winds, from his ignorance in the art of guiding and supporting himself by his wings, he met the same fate that punished his first presumption.

The Eagle hearing his cry, flew to him, with anxious haste, and seeing near him, his imprudent adviser, the Vulture, whom she accused as the original cause of the accident, soon sacrificed him to her anger ; then charging her wings, with her Son once more, conducted him to his nest, perfectly convinced of his folly ; and an example to his brother, of the painful effects of imprudence.

M O R A L.

Those who disobey the commands of their parents,—who are obstinately deaf to the dictates of reason, and suffer vanity to mislead them from their duty, will receive the severest of punishments ; that, which fatal experience has such full power to inflict.

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IX.

IX. The STORKS and the KITE.



The first duty is due to our Parents, even in preference to our Children ; therefore it has pleased the Almighty to enforce it, by delivering it as a commandment.

F A B L E.

A RICH FARMER, who dealt very largely in Cattle, made it a custom to drive his Sheep every night into a Barn, leaving with them the Shepherd, whose business it was to conduct them in the morning to pasture. One day, when this man had sustained a very severe wetting from its having rained incessantly during the whole
time

time he was attending the Sheep, he found it necessary, on his return at night, to endeavor to dry his cloathes by making a little fire ; but either unfortunately, or through negligence, the fire communicated itself to some straw in a corner of the Barn, and in a few hours consumed it to ashes.

The greatest part of the Sheep luckily escaped, but some poor Storks who had built their nests on the top of the Barn, where they had comfortably and tenderly lodged their aged Father and Mother, as well as their Children, were, by this imprudence of the Shepherd, involved in the greatest distress, and thrown into the most eminent danger. They found themselves enveloped in smoke, which gave them a melancholy presentiment of the disaster that had happened ; but the Daughter, who was the only one present capable of acting, (the Son being absent) reflecting, with great presence of mind, that unless she exerted her fortitude to subdue her agonising fears, those precious moments would be wasted in vain regrets, that still remained to admit hopes of being able to save, at least, some individual of her beloved family, called reason, therefore, to her aid, to still the anguish of her heart,

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and

and following the dictates of virtue, hastened to take charge of her venerable Father, determined to silence the yearnings of maternal love, till she had performed her duty to the authors of her being, and placing him on her wings tremblingly bore him to a place of safety.

Returning, with the eager hopes and virtuous intent of rescuing her Mother, and receiving the only consolation the deep sense she had of her misfortune could afford her, (that of being conscious she was acting right,) she was accosted by a Kite ; who loudly and without reserve, addressed her, and bluntly reproached her with want of humanity—of being a disgrace to the maternal character, and unworthy the blessing of possessing it ;—severely condemned her as destitute of sense, as well as devoid of every amiable sentiment, in being barbarous enough to sacrifice her Children, and weak enough to rescue, in preference, two old carcases, who could only be a burthen to themselves, —a plague to their friends,—and a nuisance to others ; and of course the sooner they were annihilated the better it would be for all parties.

“ I

“I truly love my Children,” answered the Stork with great philosophy, as she hastened her flight, “but I am bound by duty, gratitude, and the decrees of heaven, to give the preference to those from whom I derived my existence. “The Gods may reward my adherence to their commandment, by blessing me with more Children; but it is not in Nature to supply the loss of a beloved Mother and an estimable Father. Never,—never shall any neglect of mine hasten that period which I dread,—which will fill me with regret; but which, when it does arrive, from the wise ordination of of Heaven, I shall submit to without repining; and seek consolation in the grief-dispelling reflection; that it was not invited by my want of duty towards them, nor deserved by any fault.

M O R A L.

Indiscretion and negligence, the foibles of youth, is the source from which many unexpected calamities and misfortunes have sprung.

X. The LION RE-CROWNED.



A wise Prince ought to be prudent, without artifice ;—cheerful, without degrading his dignity,—and brave, without cruelty.

F A B L E.

SOME ill-disposed animals, tired of the mildness, prosperity, and peace which distinguished the reign of a wise old Lion, whose justice and clemency formed a shield to guard him from every aspersion, and from every just complaint, entered into a league to depose him, and knowing that time, which had strengthened his mind and cultivated to perfect ripeness every vir-
tue

tue of the heart, had also stamped his forehead with wrinkles, and enfeebled his limbs with his iron hand, insolently tore the Crown from his venerable brows.

No sooner had they got it into their possession than their encreasing arrogance made them throw off all kind of respect towards one, whose great age obliged him to depend upon the allegiance of his subjects for that duty and obedience, which, when youth strung his nerves, and braced his sinews to answer the dictates of his brave soul, he would have enforced,

The ring-leaders of this rebellion were the Boar, the Fox, and the Monkey. Their treason, which united them, having succeeded thus far, self-interest began to predominate and to sow the seeds of dissension among them; each claiming the prize, and appropriating those virtues to themselves, which they thought would best entitle them to wear it.

The Fox maintained, he was the wisest, and that for the government of a kingdom great sagacity and prudence were absolutely requisite.

The Monkey affirmed, that a Prince should be lively, droll, and possessed of great humour; therefore he claimed the preference, being abundantly endowed with the power of conciliating, by his entertaining wit, that affection which a King ought to be assured of from his subjects.

The Boar did not seek to conceal the contempt he felt for the proofs they had both offered as weighty arguments in their favor, since without strength being added to them they would fail of investing them with that authority without which, it would be impossible to keep possession of that crown, which weakness in their Sovereign, not their bravery, had enabled them to wrest from his head: to which there being a general assent, it was resolved by the assembly to crown the Boar.

The Monkey was appointed to perform that ceremony; but it was found so ill-suited, both in shape and size, that every endeavour to fix it with safety, proved vain. "I see," said the Fox, "the Gods disapprove of our choice, not doubting but the tyranny of your mind will induce you to sacrifice, even the most faithful of your kingdom, to gratify the cruelty of your nature".
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They then offered the crown to the Fox; but his head was found much too sharp; —“And the Gods,” answered the Boar, “expect that kings should act, not with craft, guile, and cunning; but with justice, honor, and a generous candour:” “It is the Monkey then who is to govern us,” said the assembly at large; but his head was so unsteady, and so capricious in its motions, that it was so impossible to catch it, even for a moment, settled enough to try how a crown would become it; that they all unanimously, and with one voice, cried out, “if we were imprudent enough to elect you King, the contemptible foolery and ill-timed waggonishness of your humor and wit (as you call it) would not only draw upon you the contempt of the strangers who visited your court, but expose you to the ridicule of even your own subjects”.

“Therefore,” said the wisest, “after this proof of the folly, as well as criminality of our conduct, in depriving him of the crown, to whom the Gods decreed it, we have no alternative, but, throwing ourselves at the feet of the Lion,—to acknowledge our crime,—bewail our imprudence,—and implore his clemency, that he may again restore us to his favor;—forget our sincerely-repented

repented rebellion ; and that He, for whose head alone the Crown was intended and on whose sacred brows alone it sits with benign majestic grace, would once more deign to accept it, in consideration of the general welfare and peace of subjects so many years must have endeared to him.

M O R A L.

To acknowledge a Fault as soon as we are convinced it is one, is a generous pride, and reflects an honor that obliterates all remembrances of its ever having been committed ; but a tardy repentance, the effect of disappointed expectations, not of loyal sentiments and a wish to return to their duty, deserves to be resented with scorn and punished with rigor.



XI. The WOLF, the Ass, and the LION.



Those who are so devoid of sensibility and good temper as to be offended at an error committed, through an over-anxiousness to please, will undoubtedly prove ungrateful for the highest favors, and are deservedly treated, when perfectly slighted and avoided

F A B L E.

A LION, by nature generous, noble, and grateful, returning victorious from a desperate battle, which he had bravely won, determined to give a grand Feast to all those who had assisted him in obtaining his conquest: Feeling, with that liberality attached
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to real bravery, that he should lose half the delight of even boasting the glorious title of conqueror, if those who had shared the dangers of acquiring his laurel-crown did not also share the honor and the booty which attended it; he invited them all to meet in a large meadow; where he provided food of all kinds to suit the different palates of his visitors, anxious that nothing should be wanting to make it, indiscriminately, agreeable to all parties.

Before the repast took place he condescended to return them thanks for their services,—praised the zeal they had shewn by the animated support they had afforded him in the dangers he had encountered,—and desired, as a proof how sensible he was of their fidelity, that they would partake of the entertainment he had prepared for them.

Happy in their Prince's favor and flattered by his gracious praises, all, in great spirits, immediately accepted his invitation, except the Ass and the Wolf; who never ceased grumbling, that the Lion should have been so particularly inattentive to them as not to provide thistles for the one, and carrion for the other, unless he had intended to take this opportunity of publicly affronting them.

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The Lion, who was sensible that (tho' he omitted thistles and carrion,) there were at the feast many other things on which they could very deliciously regale themselves, & looking upon their complaints as the effect of a discontented, ungrateful, and unsatisfied disposition, esteemed them both beneath his anger or his notice ; and, without paying the least regard to their murmurs, gave himself up to the gratification of remarking the pleasure and content, with which the others partook of his munificence.

The Monkey relished the nuts,—the Dog with great glee, seized upon some meat,—the Bull enjoyed the hay,—the Horse feasted plentifully upon corn,—and the Elephant was perfectly satisfied with bread. Thus all returned home cheerful, happy, and grateful for the pleasure the Lion had condescended to give them.

M O R A L.

The vicious avoid the society of the amiable ; and the amiable are incapable of taking pleasure in an intercourse with the depraved in Morals.



XII. The ORANGE, and other TREES.



Those who are elevated to rank, fortune, and power, should be distinguished for the virtue and purity of their lives, and their characters dignified by acts of liberality towards others whose situation calls for the exertion of the softening hand of humanity to relieve (perhaps undeserved) calamities. If such be the conduct of a man in private life, we may depend upon his supporting a public one with justice, honor, and mildness.

F A B L E.

THE Trees having frequently remarked, that Birds acknowledged the Eagle
as

as their king, and that the Lion was no less respected as a sovereign by every other beast came to a resolution of raising to that dignity, one among themselves, to whom all the other Trees should pay homage, and in whom should be vested full power to exercise every royal prerogative.

A meeting, therefore, was appointed to receive the different candidates; to hear their different pretensions, and to decide the important question of "who is most worthy?"

Claimants, as may be supposed, flocked from all quarters; some led by ambition, others by pride; but those introduced by folly and self-love, were innumerable: These various conductors did not fail to flatter them on their way, with the insincerity of sycophants, that they had every just title to the envied rank they aspired to: But, when arrived at the meeting they began to exhibit their pretensions to virtues which none but themselves ever allowed them; and to boast of abilities, of which (themselves excepted) all were ignorant; a general murmur of disapprobation marked the prudence of retiring from an assembly, which by a longer stay therein, they

they might irritate to a more insulting rejection.

Every insignificant candidate, by this means, being discarded, there was full leisure to enquire into the merits of five or six; whose claims appearing to be sanctioned by reason, gave them a right to a generous investigation, an impartial attention, and a strong exertion of all the powers of a just discrimination.

The Oak stood foremost, recommending itself to the dignity, by the wisdom and experience, it cannot fail of acquiring, and improving, in a life of incredible length;—by the protection it was capable of affording under its spacious branches, which was almost as boundless as the succour it's rich Acorns enabled him to bestow, and to which men of the highest rank and most distinguished characters had been indebted for the preservation of their lives; and that, however vain and assuming the boast might appear, he was too nobly ambitious of being thought worthy of the crown, to omit adding, that he had had the honorable title conferred on him, of being the bulwark of kingdoms:—the just right he had to that distinction, he submitted to the candour of the committee.

So

So much reason, majesty, and truth, appeared in this speech, that it was received with unanimous applause; but was silenced by an address from the Laurel, who beg'd them to take into consideration the great favor in which he was held by the Gods who had thought him worthy of having bestowed on him the wonderful and unparalleled virtue of withstanding the dreadful effects of thunder and lightening, and guarding, from its destructive power, the terrified and unprotected traveller.

"To my rank no objection can be made," said he, "since I have, for ages, been esteemed the emblem of eternal fame to the glorious deeds of heroes;—of the eternal admiration due to great and sublime abilities;—and have had the honor of encircling the brows of the most distinguished of the Roman Emperors, who would have thought the celebration of their triumphs (on their returning victorious) as wanting half its dignity—half its brilliancy, had not a crown formed of my leaves, on their entering the capitol, adorned their heads.

Various sentiments were created by this address of the Laurel; but the generality, though they respected the gift conferred on

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him

him by the Gods, thought him too vain of the distinction paid him by men who had loaded him with honors, more from caprice, than any superior merit he possessed over other Evergreens.

The Pomegranate was the next who offered; depending that two reasons, he should propose, would speak very forcibly in his favor, he began his argument with confidence: The one was, that the regularity with which his seed was arranged, was a sign of the union he should be able to preserve among his subjects, which must ever be deemed one of the strongest duties of a King; the other was, that the crown which nature had bestowed upon him, evidently shewed she had not only thought him deserving of a kingdom, but had designed that he should one day hold the reins of government.

His first argument was admitted, but his second being founded on the shallow basis of personal advantages, the assembly waited in silence for the Olive to urge his suit; which he supported by the strong recommendation of being the symbol of peace, and the favorite of the goddess Minerva, to whom he was consecrated.

But

But the Vine, above all, loudly maintained; that man owed to him the prolongation of a life which, at the most advanced age, they were weak enough to resign with regret; and to preserve which, for one hour, they would resign all the luxuries the boasted virtues of his competitors could bestow.

The Olive did not want for amiable qualities, therefore had made himself some interest in the minds of his judges; but he was so devoid of those striking ones which should mark the character of Princes, that he was passed by with regret. The Vine was, with all his brilliant qualities and virtues, rejected; as being the cause of more ruin and destruction than he was capable of good.

They therefore began to find themselves extremely puzzled, on whom they should fix to fill the elevated rank they were assembled to confer; when all eyes were suddenly attracted to the Orange, who waited in modest silence to hear the decision of the judges:—unassuming, he neither sought for rank or power, and seemed insensible to the innumerable virtues—the many intrinsic merits and advantages which appeared to others so conspicuously designed to add grace to the Crown, rather than to receive dignity from it.

E2.

Surprised

Surprised they should have hesitated so long!—His very rivals turned advocates for him, sensible of those well-grounded reasons which could not fail to influence all minds in chusing him as their Sovereign; and though he declined making any pretensions to the empire, the assembly unanimously elected him their King; warmly setting forth the justice of his claims, which must be indisputable, as they were founded on the perpetual verdure of his leaves, a sign that his mind when arrived at maturity, would still retain all the vigour of youth,—that the incomparable perfume of his flowers was an emblem of the sweets or comforts, which arise from a virtuous life, both to ourselves and others,—and above all, that his fruits, fit to gather at all seasons, proved that boundless and unalterable liberality, which should mark the character of every monarch, amiably desirous of being esteemed the father of his people.

M O R A L.

Those who rule should make it the principal study of their hearts, and business of their lives, to gain the affection, esteem, and admiration of their subjects; drawing them by those endearing ties to feel duty light, and obedience pleasing.

XIII.

XIII. The ERMINE and the PRINCE.



We are frequently indebted to the liberality of strangers for acts of kindness and generosity, which the insensibility or avarice of those, from whom we had a right to expect them, have denied us.

F A B L E.

AN ERMINE, finding that being the youngest of a large family deprived him of all distinction, and that his elder brothers engrossed all that attention and respect which was equally due to his birth, entreated his mother to permit him to travel. Her penetration soon discovered the reason, and though she was by no means devoid of

E3.

sensibility

sensibility or affection towards him; yet the disgust he had taken against his country proceeding from just provocation, she did not attempt to dissuade him from a resolution her prudence suggested was likely to contribute both to his happiness and establishment. She therefore, not only gave her free consent, but expressed her approbation, and promoted the execution of his plan, by informing him, that a relation of his had lately left his friends from the same motive, and with the same sanguine hopes, which had been fortunately realised. Notwithstanding this separation was by mutual consent, many tears testified the regret they felt at its being necessary.

The Ermine pursued his journey all through Flanders, but finding nothing but neglect and indifference, he proceeded as far as France; then did he experience a reverse of fortune indeed! To that philanthropy, the french are famed for shewing towards strangers, was added the highest admiration wherever he appeared: Charmed with the enchanting beauty of his skin they could not refrain from touching it, or keep their eyes from the brilliant whiteness so peculiar to that animal, and which was so surprising, as left them at a loss which to admire most, its exquisite colour, or its delightful texture.

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Being arrived at Paris, the parisian fame soon founded the praises of the Ermine in the ears of the monarch himself, who immediately ordered him to appear before his throne. It was then he became sensible, that he might safely indulge every ambitious hope,—it was then he found his former most sanguine expectations fall very far short of the honors and happiness that awaited him;—flattered, caressed, and respected,—encreasing in favor every day, his heart overflowed with joy, and in extacy, he exclaimed, “thrice happy departure from my native land!—Oh! blessed be the hour in which I thought of quitting an ungrateful country, to meet with such unbounded friendship, from the greatest and most deserving of princes,—to meet with distinctions and favors which more than compensate,—which greatly overpay me for all the contempt I experienced in my own nation.”

M O R A L.

A Mother should exert her fortitude to subdue every selfish tenderness which interferes with the welfare of her children.—France is worthy of imitation in ever having distinguished itself above other nations, by generously offering her arms as a refuge and an asylum to distressed merit, or to unfortunate princes.

XIV. A NOBLEMAN and his HOUND.



A good reputation,—a noble character, may defy the scythe of time, or the shafts of adversity: for the truly amiable, will ever pay the highest respect to virtue, under whatever form she may think proper to present herself.

F A B L E.

A NOBLEMAN passing near a dunghill, as he was going to the chace, perceived an old Hound lying upon it, but so thin, and in so dreadful a condition from the bad treatment she had for some time met

met with, that it was impossible for him to recollect her: struck with compassion at the sight of her emaciated form, which still retained traces of her former beauty, he remained some time regarding her with an eye of pity, which the poor brute perceiving, wagged her tail in gratitude for his humane attention, and raising her head as if desirous of saying something interesting, shewed a countenance in which was painted the most earnest entreaties for protection,—the most evident proofs of deserving it,—and the strongest marks of that unmerited wretchedness, which claims assistance from every feeling heart.

Still encouraged by the countenance of the young Lord, she exerted her little remaining strength, and dragged in agony, her wounded body to the feet of the Nobleman, who in admiration of the fortitude which had enabled her, notwithstanding her debilitated state, to leave her dunghill, received her with the most heart-reviving caresses, which gave the poor animal resolution to address him in the following words.

“ I perceive, my Lord, that the filth
with which I am covered—the poverty
to

to which I am reduced—and the broken thigh, under which misfortune I endure tortures, and which forever deprives me of the power of shewing you that zeal I have hitherto evinced in your service, form, altogether, a disguise which robs me of that place in your memory I was formerly so happy in possessing, under the name of *Fair Maid*, whose reputation in the chace was unrivalled,—in whose glory you took the greatest pride, and whose fame was thought worthy of interesting the royal ear”.

“ It was I, (forgive the vanity of this retrospection) who seized that wonderful Stag that had so often been unsuccessfully hunted in the forest of *Compeigne*; but what I more particularly pride myself upon,—what even at this time, when I am suffering the most acute pain—my spirits depressed with the severest calamities—and my body weakened by poverty, has power to assuage my distress, and make me forget I am no longer young or happy, is, that on that day!—that glorious day! I was accompanied by forty dogs who owed to me their existence—whom I could own without a blush, and whose fame prevented mine from fading, even in age”,—

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“ If your highness has any doubts of the truth of my assertions, I will take the liberty of refering you to your Gallery, in which you will, by the colour of my skin, and its marks, (all that remain of my former qualities) find me at the head of my children, leading them to the chace and to the victory, I have already described, and on that proof I rest my hopes of receiving comfort and assistance”.

Her strength failed her, and in silence she waited the success of an application on which her life depended. The Nobleman, who was passionately fond of the chace, and of course attached to his dogs and horses, immediately recollected the circumstances she had been recounting, which recalled to his mind the figure of this faithful, worthy old servant, and created in him the tenderest pity,—revived all the affection he had once felt for his favorite, and made him look back with regret on that inattention, on his part, which had reduced the poor creature to so abject, so miserable a state: Renewing, therefore, the kindest and most consoling caresses, he delivered her to his vallet, with orders to take the tenderest care of her,—to wash her with warm water,—have a proper person to
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cure her leg, and to bring her every day to his table, to receive her meat from her Lord's hands ; and, that he might be convinced, by constantly seeing her, that she had that attention paid her, which he was determined she should enjoy for the remainder of her life.

As they were carrying her home, another old dog who had been a witness of the gracious reception which had been given her, and the kindnesses which were the result of her petition, thought he would not lose so fair an opportunity of being equally fortunate ; he therefore, in an abrupt address, put in his claim for equal consideration, endeavoring to support his pretensions, by boasting of his long services,—his poverty, and his age : but these pretensions not being supported by truth, and the Nobleman knowing his services had been few,—his abilities below mediocrity, and that his poverty proceeded more from idleness, which made him fly his kennel, than from the feebleness of age, mounted his horse and followed the chase.

M O R A L.

It is a duty (which every heart, possessed of sensibility, must fulfil with pleasure) to support

port those in age, who have devoted their youth to your service: The dependent situation of the persons who have been faithfully attached to your interest, does not excuse you from a gratitude which should be testified on every opportunity of smoothing the down-hill of their lives, and promoting (what must be still more dear to them) the happiness of those whom they may chance to leave unprotected and unconsolated; but by the hope that a parent's merit may give them a claim on your generosity.



XV. The LION, the SHEEP, and the WOLF.



Those only deserve power, who generously exert it in defending the helpless.

F A B L E.

A LION returning from battle, by a private path, that he might convey the rich booty he had gained with more safety, discovered at some distance, a sheep flying with all the speed that her strength (being breathless with fright) would permit. Suspecting she was endeavouring to escape some dreaded enemy, the Lion thought to give her courage by calling to her, and offering

offering his protection; but the Sheep terrified beyond the power of discrimination, and too sensible of her weakness to hope for any safety but in flight, redoubled, without daring to look behind, the speed of her trembling steps, which gave the Lion reason to think that the Wolf could not be far behind.

He soon found himself right in his conjectures, by perceiving through the trees, that cruel beast, to all appearance, in eager pursuit on the same tract his poor innocent prey had traced; and feeling the noble impulse of counteracting the Wolf's inhuman intentions, he made a short cut to stop him in his career, addressing him coldly with the question, what cause could possibly require his travelling so fast, and with so much impatience?—"Hunger", answered the Wolf, "which has obliged me to leave my cave to go in quest of wherewithal to satisfy it".

"If that be your only business", replied the Lion, "do not be at the trouble or fatigue of continuing your uncertain pursuit, but partake with me of a rich booty which will sufficiently gratify your palate, and silence the cravings of your stomach".

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The Wolf, who would much rather have followed the delicious prey he had in view, was at a loss how to excuse himself from accepting the Lion's invitation; but after a short hesitation he perceived it was impossible to refuse it, without discovering his cruel intentions; which were become still more cruel, as necessity could no longer be admitted as a plea, after the generous offer that had been made him; he, therefore, partly through policy, and partly through fear, consented with a grace (he thought unsuspected) to follow the Lion, who proceeded with all that chearfulness which the consciousness of having done a good action, never fails to inspire.

Being arrived at his den, he placed every thing that the greatest glutton could require, before the Wolf, who inwardly grumbled at every mouthful, fancying what he possessed far inferior to the prey he had been obliged to forego; because in the sheep he would not only have satiated his hunger, but have given the highest enjoyment to the barbarous delight his mind took in cruelty: while the Lion, on the contrary, felt inexpressible pleasure, in having, by his address, given the Sheep time to escape, and by his generosity, succeeded in appeasing the fury of the Wolf.

MORAL

MORAL.

Many Misfortunes may be prevented by a well-timed exertion of liberality and courage.



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XVI.

XVI. The PEACOCK and IBIS.



How many there are, who from possessing an engaging person, insinuating manner, and a lively turn for conversation, make so deep an impression on you at first sight, as to create a desire of improving the acquaintance into a friendship; but who, on a more scrutinising enquiry, prove themselves either mere superficial characters, or else unworthy of esteem, from their vices, and dangerous from that art which enabled them to impose themselves upon your credulity as being no less amiable, than agreeable.

F A B L E.

A PEACOCK, being ambitious of gaining as general a reputation for prudence

dence in the choice of a friend, as he already possessed for unrivaled beauty, determined to travel in search of such a one, as should reflect honor upon his understanding, and from whom he might, at the same time derive a constant source of pleasure. His exterior charms had the power of attracting even the notice of the Eagle, who offered to enter into a strict amity with him ; but he thought it was aspiring too high to become the companion of his master, well knowing, that no friendship can be of long duration where there is a great inequality in rank.

The Goldfinch and the Nightingale pleased him well enough ; the one on account of its sweet note, and the other for its beautiful plumage ; but he felt that he should be ashamed of being seen in their company, from the insignificance of their figure. The Parrot was too great a talker :—The Ostrich was as stupid in mind as he was heavy in body ;—The Hawk was too cruel, and the Vulture equally as unamiable.

As he was beginning to think of returning, (for he had already reached as far as *Egypt*, he perceived on the borders of the

Nile, a large Bird, somewhat resembling, in shape, the Stork, but possessing all its merits, without its defects. Its plumage was a beautiful shining black; its beak long and hooked, and, as well as his legs, of a fine red;—it was called an Ibis, and added to the above advantages, “his majestic mein and air, attracted the notice of the Peacock, who immediately advanced towards him with the most friendly overtures of acquaintance with him.

The Ibis was struck with the richness and beauty of the Peacock’s tail, which drew from him, as much, or indeed, more respect, than he would have paid, even to the Eagle himself. For two hours they enjoyed the greatest satisfaction imaginable in each others society, and each congratulated himself in a meeting which promised to be productive of so much serene happiness to both parties.

The Peacock began to think himself overpaid for the trouble of so long a journey, and there was every appearance of the strictest and most unalterable friendship taking place, when the Ibis plunging his long neck into the Nile, and drawing it back full of water, conveyed it through his
bill

bill, in a dirty manner, into his body. The Peacock was astonished and disgusted; all his favourable opinion of him vanished, and unable to restrain his indignation, he burst out into the severest reproaches;—“thou filthy beast!—How have I disgraced myself by conversing with thee!—Pitiful, base, unworthy wretch!—artful villain! who can assume the outward appearance of honor, dignity, and worth; and whose interior is the seat of obscenity, meanness, and vice!”

And immediately taking wing, he was retiring, when his flight was arrested by the voice of the Ibis, who thus broke his contemptuous silence—“Thus am I punished for suffering myself to be attracted by your gaudy plumage, without considering how much I degraded myself by even thinking of forming a friendship with one who is but the offspring of pride and folly.—What are your boasts, vain bird? but that you are painted and trifling as the Butterfly—and your beauty short-lived as the Rose?—And will you dare to vie with me, who am of such essential service to my country, as to have had divine honors paid me?—To convince you of the weakness of taking disgust (which ignorance is apt to do)

at what it is beyond your comprehension to account for,—know, that in the circumstance you took offence at, I merely followed the instinct nature has endowed me with, and from which I find relief against every complaint my species is subject to: and what still adds to my fame and superiority, over such an insignificant bird as you, is, that the same circumstance was the means of teaching that noble creature man a new method of rendering medicine of service to his fellow-creatures.

“What have you done, either for the service of your own kind, or for the noblest work of God?—What are your virtues?—Retire in shame at your presumption, and with regret that you have lost a friend, who would have conferred an honor on you, it is not in your power to bestow”.—The Peacock once more took wing with a drooping crest.

M O R A L.

It is wisdom to fly from folly;—it is virtue to shun the vicious: but unless you are indulgent to foibles, seek not a friend, for you are not yourself without faults,—perfection is incompatible with our nature.

XVII. The DUEL between the RAT and the FROG.



There are very few provocations which can justify the having recourse to a revenge that endangers the life of a fellow-creature; and we have a right to believe that person possessed of a heart filled with envy, malice, cruelty, and every vice baneful to society, who, for every trifling offence, flies to his sword for redress.

F A B L E.

AN ELEPHANT and a Rhinoceros, after having had very frequent and very violent quarrels, met in a large meadow,

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when

when the latter found himself very much puzzled how to invent some charge against the Elephant, which, bearing the colour of reason, might in some measure justify his having been the aggressor in all their disputes; and endeavoring to make the loudness of his reproaches stand in lieu of the justice of them, he began in a hostile manner, to enumerate the faults which he thought would vindicate the resentment he had shewn towards the Elephant.

“ You have been discovered”, continued the Rhinoceros, “ attempting, against instinct,—against nature, to infringe on the peculiar prerogative of man, by practising with a sword to obtain an undue advantage over your adversaries. You are also accused of consulting the heavens, and studying the stars, to learn whether you will ever be able to succeed in your rebellious designs of usurping the throne; for which purpose also, you have been caught tracing on the sand, characters which are suspected of being cabalistical, and of black intent”.

“ If”, answered the Elephant, “ I am able to wield the sword, I deserve praise for my address, in acquiring an art that may render me as serviceable to the state,

as

as in your hands it would be detrimental, supposing your courage and skill equal to the badness of your heart : Neither am I deserving of censure for raising my eyes to heaven, since instinct prompts all who possess grateful hearts, to offer up daily thanksgivings, for the benefits they have received, and I feel a particular impulse of gratitude for the rich qualities with which all my race are endowed ; and my writing on the sand, is an evident proof, that my mind is not as dull, as the heaviness of my body would suggest, since I am able to execute the most wonderful of all inventions : But I have not entered into this justification for the sake of avoiding a battle, from which I by no means wish or intend to shrink”.

Upon which he raised his proboscis, as a signal, to begin the fight, which was answered by the other presenting his horn, when they were prevented from beginning the attack, by the extraordinary sight of a duel between a Rat and a Frog. They had, each of them, armed themselves with a sharp pointed bulrush, and were reared on their hinder legs ; in this attitude they were seeking revenge with all the fury of which they were capable.

“ Let

“Let us hear the subject of this quarrel” said the Rhinoceros, (who had not much inclination for fighting, and therefore had no objection to postponing it a little) to which the Elephant consenting, their curiosity was soon gratified to their own shame.

“I maintain”, cried the Rat, “that a mouse-coloured grey is the most beautiful”. —“And I”, said the other, “will not suffer the green of the Frog to yield in beauty to the dirty grey of the Rat”; whereupon they renewed their blows with redoubled fury:—But the Elephant had heard enough to cover him with confusion; and turning towards his antagonist, he thus addressed him with concern.

“How much reason have we to blush with shame, at having condescended to meet for the purpose of gratifying our animosity, and deciding our quarrel in the same manner, that these wretched insects—these abortive productions of nature, settle their contemptible differences; who think to screen their own insignificance, by imitating the actions of the most noble beasts. We will return, and look on this transaction, as a burlesque, our folly has deserved”.

“In

“In truth”, said the Rhinoceros, “we cannot, after what we have witnessed, fight with honor; therefore I will retire with you, as a friend, for never shall it be said we ended our quarrels after the manner of such despicable animals, as Rats and Frogs”.

M O R A L.

It is time that men of honor and rank should wipe off that stain from the sword, with which every lacquey and hair-dresser has of late dared to pollute it. Let the great employ it in the service of their country; not disgracing it by drawing it in the cause of drunken quarrels, or tavern broils. Let them not, for one hasty word, sacrifice their own happiness, and perhaps involve a whole family in ruin, by taking away the life of their only protector and friend, while they deprive the world of an useful member of society.



XVIII. The FIG and the OLIVE.



We cannot think it extraordinary, that men should feel antipathy towards each other, when we have so many instances, not only of the inveteracy of beasts to some of their species, but of trees; who often feel the most irreconcilable hatred against their neighbour, that it is possible even for the noble creature man to be sensible of.

F A B L E.

A CIRCUMSTANCE, proving the above assertion, occurred, which gave occasion to the Pomegranate to exert that milk of human kindness, for which it is formed,
and

and which agreeing with its exterior qualities, has given it the title of the emblem of peace and concord.

With an amiable zeal, he attempted to sooth the anger and remove the disgust, which subsisted between two near neighbours, the Olive and the Fig : In vain he exerted every effort of his eloquence to induce them, as fate had destined them to live so near each other, to bury in oblivion their animosity, and to establish a friendly intercourse with each other, which should be a mutual pleasure, and a mutual comfort.

Finding their hearts shut against that argument, he assailed their pride and emulation, by bringing numberless examples of other trees living near each other in the greatest harmony, and exchanging, as opportunity offered, reciprocal acts of kindness ; which not being able to follow, must subject them to the severest censure and the most public disapprobation. But the Pomegranate found their minds as deaf to the dictates of reason, as their hearts were insensible to the instigations of friendship.

Various were the methods which the
Pomegranate

Pomegranate (never indolent where there is a prospect of doing good) essayed to bring about a reconciliation, but obstinacy baffled all his good intents, and deprived his eloquence of the power it deserved to possess. Still too anxious in doing good, to be easily discouraged, after having tried every other means, he had recourse to severe reproaches, which he addressed to the Fig, declaring him the aggressor, in having taken an unjust, and malicious antipathy towards the Olive, whose peaceable disposition was well known, and would of course throw the censure on him alone.

The Fig, offended at having all the imputation of litigiousness thrown upon him, immediately entered upon his justification, by representing the hatred between their families, which had subsisted so long, as to become hereditary, and that it was incompatible with their natures, ever to be upon friendly terms.

“ But”, continued the Fig, “ without entering into a discussion of circumstances, which are hid from your view, I will only beg you to judge, by exterior marks, of the contrast which distinguishes my character from his, and places a bar of enmity between
between

between us and concord : My leaves are large and scolloped ; those of the Olive are short, and in one piece :—Mine are enamelled with a beautiful green ; his are of a dead whitish green :—My fruit is large and noble ; his are pitifully small. The colour of the one is a faint resemblance of green ; the other, approaches nearer to purple :—Figs are sweet, and of a grateful flavor ; the Olive is sour, and bitter : In short the roots, rind, and trunk, differ so much, that the only good office you can possibly do us, is to remove us from each other, which can alone prevent quarrels ; for though even at a distance, we can never be friends, we shall, at least, cease to be enemies”.

M O R A L.

It is vain to attempt reconciling two persons, whose difference of sentiment, disposition, and rank, make it absolutely impossible for them to admit the same pleas, or understand the same reasons. The wish of promoting concord, is natural to the amiable ; but success, as in the above case, is so doubtful, that the most prudent method is, when they appear inveterate, to remove them from each other : that near neighbourhood may not tempt them to dangerous acts of revenge. which absence might both prevent, and mitigate,

XIX. The EAGLE'S NEST.



Every thing belonging to princes, should be superb, magnificent, and noble, to engage reverence from their own subjects,—to impress strangers with respect, and enemies with awe;—and to encourage the greatest political ornaments of a kingdom; the arts and sciences.

F A B L E.

THE EAGLE, being soon expected to lay her eggs, was visited by a number of birds, who, with just respect, represented to her Majesty, that the Nest she had chosen was not suitable to her high rank,
and

and that many of the birds afforded themselves Nests much superior in every respect; some of them lodging themselves in the most magnificent palaces, frequently chusing the chamber, or some other of the rooms belonging to the greatest princes; therefore they beseeched her Majesty to consider that however amiable moderation was in a private character, it bore a different title in so elevated a station, and would draw upon her the imputation of wanting that greatness which should not only accompany all the actions of Princes, but shine through every thing that belonged to them.

The Eagle graciously thanked them for their advice, which she condescended to receive as a mark of their loyal affection, but answered, that she should not change the place, where she had been accustomed to lay her eggs, which was either in the hollow of a large tree, or on the point of some high rock; a choice which prudence had suggested, as much for the preservation of her young, as the good government of her people, over whom she had an unbounded view from her present situation, the advantages of which they must be too sensible of to persist in wishing her to

G change

change it ; but if their generosity, loyalty, and affection, prompted them to exert their abilities in rendering it more magnificently suitable to the distinguished rank of queen of the birds, she should feel happy in finding herself so dear to her subjects ; and grateful for that proof of their zeal and fidelity.

The swallow and king's-fisher, with great joy and chearfulness, received, as a flattering testimony of favour, this gracious acceptance of their services, and began the foundation, in which they followed that plan, which nature, through their instinct, had taught them, as most proper for their peculiar kind, building with a firmness and strength, capable of resisting rain, wind, and storms. The Goldfinch, no less delighted than the former, with the permission, brought, as an offering, his gaudy plumes of red and yellow to embellish the outside. The Peacock with princely liberality, laid at her feet his brilliant and beautiful feathers. The Pidgeon's variegated ones were also accepted, The Parroquette presented his lively green ones. The Cock supplied her with white. The Hern with black, and the Lark with the softest cotton, to contribute to the warmth and comfort of the young Eagles.

MORAL

M O R A L.

A prince's first study should be to deserve,
and thus should subjects act and feel; and, by
a mutual interchange of services and gratitude,
restore again, the golden age.

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XX.

XX. The Two COLTS.



The vanity of youth, which leads them to set too high a value upon themselves, often draws them into difficulties and quarrels with those, who, equally impetuous, think it necessary to punish boastings, which by appearing to place themselves in an inferior light, rouse their pride and indignation.

F A B L E.

TWO young Colts, of very promising expectations, had been placed in the same field, and constantly grazed together in great friendship and harmony; one day after having regaled themselves
most

most plentifully, one of them was heard to address his companion in the following words : "I cannot imagine what can be the cause of it, but since I have feasted upon this herbage I feel myself possessed of so much courage, strength, and intrepidity, that if you could boast as much bravery, I believe we should, together, be equal to a contest with a powerful army."

The other, who was of a vigorous animated spirit, replied, that if he were inclined to try their strength at any exercise, he would soon convince him what he was capable of ; and smiling, he gave him a blow on the head with his tail, which the first returned with a quickness bordering on impatience. The other, who sought to amuse himself, and to enjoy a little mirth, continued skilfully striking him with his long tail, when one of the hairs getting loose stuck in the eye of the former, and turned their play into a quarrel ; and whether it were from the pain of his eye, or that he was tired of a play in which he had not the superiority is not known ; but turning his back, he began, in fury, a serious contest, lashing his heels at him with such violence and passion as soon made the other find it necessary to defend himself ;

and he turning about likewise, they gave themselves up to all the rage of offended pride, envy, and revenge; nor did they cease fighting till he who had began the quarrel, was disabled from continuing it, by a dangerous wound in the shoulder. Thus ended their friendship, and the offender was punished by his master's consigning him to the dogs, he being no longer fit for service, or worthy the care and attention to which his high blood, and promising qualities would have entitled him.

M O R A L.

What a reflection it is upon the heart and understanding of a person to suffer a trifle to part him from a friend.—But it so often happens, that even young people have, very early in life, an opportunity of seeing from example, how necessary it is to correct those acids in the temper, which act like secret enemies to their peace, and to be as much upon their guard against them, as against passion, which makes a bold and open attack.



XXI. The OLD GENTLEMAN, and
his TREES.

The praise, which you bestow on a worthy man, strengthens his affection and friendship, without encreasing his vanity ; and it is a tribute due to those who have proved themselves zealous in your service.

F A B L E.

AN OLD GENTLEMAN, who had dedicated the prime of his life to the service of his prince, and who had distinguished himself both as a soldier, and as a statesman, finding his mind become unequal to the weight of the one, and his body too

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enervated

enervated to support the fatigue of the other, resigned all his employments, and entirely dropping a public character, retired into the country with an uncorrupted heart, and as great a share of philanthropy as if he had never quitted it.

In the cultivation of his estates, and in his beautiful gardens he found a guard against that languor, which generally attends such sudden transitions; making them as much an employment, as an amusement, he soon found, that every shrub and every flower, acquired an interesting claim upon him, and, naturally grateful, he felt himself obliged to his trees for the fruit they had supplied him with.

Walking with some friends round his gardens, he could not help expressing to them, the pleasure and peace he enjoyed in a country life, and pointing out to them the variety of beauties which succeed each other, as a constant source of amusement and an inexhaustible subject for reflection: —“Do you not”, said he, “admire this beautiful enameled green, so charmingly diversified in its colours, and more delightfully soft to the feet, than if covered with a carpet of silk?” Then recollecting the
purple

purple which ornaments the shoulders of royalty, and too frequently conceals, under its majestic colour, many vices;—"Never," continued he, "did the roman emperors, in the most splendid habiliments, exceed this embroidery of nature."

If any tree disappointed him of its fruit, he would kindly overlook the defect, representing how necessary it was for them to be sometimes excused the tribute due to their master, to prevent their exhausting their strength and substance. When the fruits did not arrive to ripeness and perfection, he would attribute it either to his neglecting to cultivate them in proper season, or to his leaving more upon the trees than they were capable of nourishing; never suffering himself to arraign providence, or rashly to condemn the innocent.

On his retiring, the trees who had lent an attentive ear to the old Gentleman's conversation, congratulated themselves, saying to each other; "How thankful ought we to be for our good fortune, in being placed in the service, and under the protection of so excellent a master, who smiles his approbation and praises on our good qualities, and in return for our fruit,
bestows

bestows the kindest care and most flattering acknowledgments, generously overlooking our demerits, and laying the blame of an unsuccessful year, to some neglect or omission on his part."

M O R A L.

Minds, worth correcting, are more affected by a liberal indulgence to their foibles, than by the justest reproaches, or the strongest reasoning.



XXII. The Two FISHERMEN.



Virtue, industry, or abilities, cannot always secure a person from misfortune ; but the consciousness of not having deserved it, will ever give him fortitude to bow, with a dignified resignation, to the wise dispensations of providence.

F A B L E.

TWO Men, who gained their livelihood by fishing, went two or three times to throw their nets together, but it was not with the same luck ; the one returning, every night, loaded with fish, while the other retired with empty panniers

niers. The unfortunate one thinking his ill success proceeded from not having chosen so eligible a place as his companion, rose before him that he might occupy it the first, and throwing his net, made sure of drawing up a booty that should compensate for his late severe disappointment, but alas ! all his endeavors were vain ! Fate had determined otherwise, and each time he threw his net, he had the mortification to see the fish pass on to his neighbour, and at night found himself as miserable as ever.

On a day, when the fortunate one had caught a large Pike, which the other had flattered himself with the hope of taking, he addressed the Fish, with saying "why are you more willing to enrich my companion than me ?—why pass me, and with your company, go to him in preference ?"—"My friend," answered the Pike, "I scarcely know how to answer you : but it is very certain, if I could follow my own inclination, I would rather stop at your net, but I am irresistibly pressed forward by your evil genius."—"I am not possessed of power sufficient to conquer your evil genius," said a gentleman passing by, who had heard the subject of his complaints, "but I am so happy as to be able to change
your

your poverty into affluence ;" and immediately gave him a purse, which compensated for all his former misery.

M O R A L.

It is so much in the power of the rich to make, with a mere trifle, so many people happy, that it should be among the first principles that are inculcated in their youth.



XXIII. The WEAZEL, the DEER, and the ELEPHANT.



Weak minds and cowardly hearts only, suffer themselves to be influenced by presages, omens, or signs; which are the different terms given to the phantoms of ignorant brains.

F A B L E.

AN ELEPHANT, who was on the point of executing some great design, was proceeding to the place he had fixed on as a rendezvous for his troops, when he met a Deer, whose erected head, and bold spreading horns, tempted him to ask him to join him

him, in his intended enterprife. The Deer, brave in words, and courageous in theory, promised every thing the hardiest beaft could undertake. While the Elephant was representing to him the honor which was to be acquired in this undertaking, a Weazel croffed the road, and instantly threw the Deer into the greateft alarm, which the Elephant endeavoured to calm, by fhewing the weaknefs of feeling fear at the fight of fuch an insignificant animal : “ It is not the animal I am afraid of,” answered the Deer, “ But its appearance juft at this time is a bad omen for your expedition,” and endeavoured to fupport this doctrine by the affertions of many of his friends and relations, who had actually experienced the truth of it.

The Elephant ridiculed the folly of fuch prognostics, and laughed at his timidity ; and enforcing his censures with great ftrength of reasoning, he prevailed on him to banish his fears, which were a reflection on himfelf, and to keep his former refolution of following him ; but fcarcely had they proceeded an hundred fteps, before they heard the crowing of a cock in a neighbouring Village, which entirely put to flight the little courage, that the Elephant’s reasonings

reasonings had revived, and turning from him, he advised the Elephant to give up all thoughts of his present enterprize, for that the Cock never crowed at that hour, but that it foreboded, some very great misfortune to those who obstinately persisted in their design.

“It is,” said the Elephant, “for the Lion to fear, not for you, or me; he has a natural antipathy to the sound of a Cock crowing, which shakes his noble breast with dread, but you have not that excuse; besides, do not think me so narrow-minded, so faint of heart, as to be deterred from prosecuting a glorious undertaking by every trifle cowards choose to dignify with the name of omens, to screen the dastardly timidity of their own souls; and turning his back, with contempt, upon the Deer, he joined his troops, which were by this time arrived.

The combat was soon decided in his favor: Returning loaded with riches, he passed, crowned with honors, close to the Deer’s cover, who seeing the fallacy of placing faith in tokens, and sensible of the disgrace he had incurred by his cowardly desertion, hid himself among the bushes to conceal the shame he felt.

MORAL.

M O R A L.

No dependence can be placed in cowards,
for they are generally boasters, and of course
liars ;—too despicable for society or service.



XXIV. The FIG-TREE, destroyed by Lightning.



Those who fly from their friends in adversity, draw down upon themselves contempt and hatred ; for no misfortunes, no poverty whatever can reflect a disgrace equal to such a proof of a depraved disposition.

F A B L E.

NATURE had been so indulgent to the Birds of a particular country, that she had not only provided them with plenty of food, but had made it her study to contribute to their pleasure, as well as profit, by planting a Fig-Tree on a little Hillock

lock near the borders of a clear stream : The beauty of the situation,—its vicinity to a refreshing river,—the sweetly pleasant flavour of its fruit,—its spreading branches covered with leaves, large and thick enough to form a most delightful shade, rendered it the constant resort of every kind of birds.

On the latter end of September, after a suffocating heat, the atmosphere grew thick, —the sky became clouded,—heaven lowered, and in the most dreadful thunder spoke its anger. The birds who were enjoying themselves on the branches of the Fig-Tree, finding, by the rain, which began to penetrate their feathers, that there was every reason to expect a furious tempest, were under the necessity of taking flight to the nearest shelter.

Scarcely were they in safety before they heard the most tremendous claps of thunder ; the repeated rollings of which, spread general terror throughout the country, but its depredations were particularly exercised on the beautiful Fig-Tree, which fell a sacrifice to its rage, and in an instant were all its grateful fruits and boasted leaves consumed.

The storm being appeased, and the rainbow appearing, as a signal of peace being established in the heavens, the birds ventured from their asylum, flying immediately towards their much-prized Tree : but it being stripped of all its honors—all its riches : poor,—forsaken, and labouring under affliction, they no longer recollected the friend who had afforded them an agreeable shade in many a sultry day ; but turning from it, with coldness, affected perfect ignorance, where so sudden and so severe an alteration seemed to authorise it.

At last it was visited by some Turtles and Becafigs ; who wishing to condole with it on the melancholy reverse of fortune it had experienced, and thinking the soothing voice of friendship would prove a consolation, affectionately perched, as usual, upon its now withered branches without being disgusted at its appearance, or offended with the smell of the thunder with which it was infected.

Some Vultures, Kites, and other birds of prey, with all the cruelty of their barbarous natures, expressed their surprise at their folly, in chusing such a desolated habitation, when near them was an oak, the tempting
green

green of which, invited them to repose themselves under its extensive shade; earnestly persuading them to fly from the Fig-Tree, by representing to them that there was neither honor, pleasure, or even safety in attaching themselves to a Tree which Jupiter had thought deserving of so severe a punishment.

“I have ever truly loved it,” answered the Turtle;—“He has so often nourished me,” said the Becafig;—“And I,” continued an old Woodpidgeon, “have experienced his generosity in so many favours, that while I have life, I will devote myself to it;—green, or withered;—dead, or living; fortunate, or unfortunate; I attach myself to it forever, determined to share its fate, whether good or ill.”

M O R A L.

Real friendship is like an evergreen, which seasons cannot change; and which will grow in the poorest, as well as in the richest soil.



XXV. The EAGLE and YOUNG RAVENS.



Virtue and courage do not always attend upon rank, however invited by education, courted by parents, or sought for in the beau-monde. They, who pay respect to the summons of a really good heart only, must frequently condescend to become the guests of the most uninformed and least accomplished of the creation; of those, whose whole merit consists in being good sons; good husbands; good fathers, and honest men:—thus unfashionable is virtue.

F A B L E.

AN EAGLE had unfortunately found, by many years experience, that her Children

Children degenerated from the virtues of their ancestors, and that of all the young ones she had reared, none had ever proved themselves possessed of the generosity of mind that her whole race had heretofore been happy enough to boast. She therefore formed the resolution of procuring a Raven's eggs, and mixing them with her own, hatch them all in the same nest, to try if the care and attention she paid them would not be a means of correcting those faults which they appear to derive from nature.

Whether it were owing to a difference of food, or whether the purity of the air in so elevated a situation, had any influence over the Ravens, we cannot determine; but as they grew, the majesty of their manners, and the brilliant dignity of their countenances, encouraged the most flattering expectations; while the young Eagles seemed to feel neither pleasure, or ambition, beyond quarrelling with each other, and even in taste, testified the meanness of their hearts, by preferring the most disgusting carrion to the freshest venison.

The Eagle thinking it now time to begin to exercise their wings, thought to

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prove

prove if they really possessed the courage and generosity natural to their race, by exposing them to the rays of the sun, which, though too brilliant for common birds to look at, and too warm for them to approach, ever cherished and revived the King of Birds. Choosing a mild day, she encouraged them to leave their nest altogether, and refresh themselves by air and exercise.

The Old Eagle watched them narrowly, and had the mortification of seeing the Ravens with only one of the young Eagles direct their course with a steady wing, and undaunted eye, straight towards the sun; while the others, mean of heart, depraved in soul, and narrow in mind, unable to bear the lustre of that glorious luminary, fell, e'er they had reached one half its height, lamenting in cowardly complaints, their mother's indifference to their cries, who, instead of affording that relief they had rendered themselves undeserving of, consigned them for ever, to oblivion, denying their affinity to her: "No," said she, "you are not my Children, nor will I believe myself so unfortunate as to be your Mother: my Children, are by nature generous, brave, and noble; you, whom I
leave

leave to Fate, are mean, cowardly and selfish.

M O R A L.

Many calamities are frequently owing to parents' consigning to another, the care of forming the hearts of their children. Education may improve natural abilities, and good company form the manners; but to a parent belongs the task of sowing, on the first dawn of reason, the seeds of virtue, and of bending the mind, ere it has power to adopt an opinion, to receive its instigations. Thus will the weeds of ill be choaked,—the mother be blessed,—and society adorned.



XXVI. The SPANISH HORSE, and the SUMPTER HORSE.



In all employments of consequence, capacity, accomplishment, and knowledge, should be attended to, and should decide your choice, not birth, private worth, or long services; they have their merits, and they have also, their suitable distinctions.

F A B L E.

A GENTLEMAN, who had held a distinguished rank, as a military man, was every year obliged to attend his duty in the army, and on that occasion generally mounted a Spanish Charger, very highly dressed for that purpose, and who for
many

many years had gained him great credit, by his obedience, activity, and spirited exertions in the field. Having received a summons from his sovereign, he mounted his favorite, ordering his groom, as usual, to saddle for himself and baggage, the Sumpter Horse, who, at first, made some resistance, but seeing his master coming unexpectedly he quietly submitted to be saddled.

The next day, on being led out of the stables, he suddenly attacked the groom, making use of his heels with a violence that astonished him; but being asked the cause, he declared he would no longer condescend to carry the baggage;—he had already submitted too long to such a degradation, and that his master took an ungenerous advantage of his patience. The groom almost frightened at the obstinacy he testified, immediately informed his master of the cause that kept him waiting, who directly went to the Sumpter Horse, and accosting him with great good nature, desired to be informed, what had thus irritated him.

“Is it not shameful,—is it not ungrateful of you,” answered the Horse, “after ten years faithful service, to load me with your baggage

baggage, and that your favorite there, (I mean your Spanish Charger) who has scarcely served you three years, should be raised to all the dignity and honor of bearing on his back your noble person?—Mount me in turn; let him carry the baggage, and in the distinction of being rode by you, let me receive the reward of ten years servitude.”

The master, who was by no means insensible to his worth, and who esteemed his fidelity too much to mortify him; with great goodness, endeavoured to make him admit the reasons which had actuated him: “You have,” said he, “too rough a pace; you have not had the advantages of education, to fit you for the manœuvres of the field, which require great suppleness and activity, and a quick and implicit obedience to the most unexpected command; to which, unaccustomed to the hurry and confusion of a battle, you would be unequal. On the other hand, my war Horse though not superior to you in intrinsic merit, is still so in abilities for the business I employ him on, and would be very incapable of undertaking your business, from the fineness of his make, which is too weak in the loins to carry both my groom and my baggage, which must convince you, that

that if I listened to your request, I should be the cause, not only of the death of my beautiful Charger, but of your's and mine also: I am well convinced of your merits; —they suit the line I have placed you in; —every care is taken of you, and I am persuaded bad advice has actuated you to rebel against my commands; but I forgive you; beware for the future, and discover the instigator of your disobedience.”

The Horse touched with the generosity of his master, and the mildness with which he endeavoured to remove, instead of resenting his discontent, acknowledged his fault, and owned that he was misled by the bad advice of a Mule who was his neighbour in the stables: At these words he quietly turned to be saddled, and the master ordered the Mule to be chastised, and deprived of half his general allowance of corn.

M O R A L.

Thus misled by bad advice, and presumptuously confident in their own abilities, people too frequently lose an eligible situation by aspiring to one they are unequal to fill, either with justice, or propriety; and thus become a detriment to society, of which, had they listened to prudence and moderation, they might have been useful members.

XXVII. The HORSE with the NICKED
TAIL, and the ASSES.

Fashion should not be allowed to gain so great an ascendancy, as to render a person the subject of ridicule ; a respect to the customs of the world shews sense ; the vanity, that leads to particularity, testifies folly.

F A B L E.

A FINE HUNTER, from which a youth had just dismounted, got loose, still bearing on his back, all the gaudy trappings of ton, and no less vain of his gay caparisons, than pleased with his liberty, paraded

paraded about with great pride and satisfaction, carrying a high head to all whom he happened to meet in his momentary escape from slavery ; among the number, chance threw in his way, were two Asses, who returning from market, were unadorned even by rich merchandise, having nothing on their backs but empty bags, which served them both as a saddle and as an ornament.

As soon as the Hunter discovered them thus equiped, he neither could nor wished to conceal his mirth and contempt, but bursting into a fit of laughter, enjoyed the vulgarity of their appearance, which was again repeated when he perceived their long ungainly tails, uncombed, clogged with dirt, and matted with straw:—"Pray" said he, "what is your business, and what your disposition?—Do you carry those tails as an ornament ; or to render a public service, by sweeping the roads?—And what is your reason for bearing on your backs, those coarse, homely sacks?—"In these sacks," replied they, "we have carried the support of the kingdom ; the bringing them back empty, we look upon both as a relief and an honor ; thinking ourselves distinguished in doing an essential service to the
state

state, and think ourselves truly happy, and amply rewarded, in being permitted to repose the remainder of the day, and immediately turned out, on our return home, to feast on thistles and those herbs nature has taught us to esteem luxurious."

"Poor wretches!" replied the Spanish Courser, "how low your ideas!—How ridiculous your wishes!—How contemptible your sentiments!—Truely beneath my notice!" Saying which, he began capering, to shew off his figure and his agility, and to make them envy the superiority of his trappings, and wonder at his proficiency in grace and elegance, which requiring great exertion, and the sun beginning to grow powerful, he found all the inconvenience of that faddle he had so much prided himself upon, and which had given him, in his own ideas, such a distinction; but when, with the heat of the sun, the Flies began to swarm and attack him, he sensibly found himself at a loss for that defence, which the tails of those he had ridiculed afforded them; and truely did he regret they had made him so fashionable, at the expence of the greatest comfort that could be experienced.

The

The Asses, seeing him fretting and impatient, flying here and there, as if the greatest misfortune in the world had happened to him; after amusing themselves in their turn with the distress which his vanity deserved, could not resist expressing to him the superior comforts, of which, notwithstanding all his boast, they esteemed themselves possessed.

“Thanks to the Gods!” cried they, “if we are less adorned, we are at least exempt from all the inconveniencies annexed to greatness and high distinctions; and we have learnt (from your folly, presumption, and ungratified pride) that conforming to the rules of nature,—enjoying her gifts, and checking every aspiring wish, is the road to happiness.”

M O R A L.

Sense, beauty, and accomplishments, should be considered as the three attendant graces of virtue; but never should be esteemed her support, or be suffered to impose on the mind as her representatives.

XXVIII. The OSTRICH, and BIRD OF PARADISE.



No connection can long subsist between two persons of different dispositions and sentiments: To avoid all intimacy; to decline all intercourse, is the most prudent plan to prevent enmity, and preserve good neighbourhood.

F A B L E.

AN OSTRICH having satisfied his rapacious appetite, amused himself with loitering about the country: In his ramble, having his head elevated on high, he perceived a remarkable Bird, whose figure and plumage

plumage he was perfectly unacquainted with, and being curious to discover from whence he came, he remained fixed for some time in observing him, hoping to see him perch upon some tree, that he might more steadily take a view of him : He was kept in expectation a long while, but still impatiently watched, thinking every moment that he might find it necessary to rest after the fatigue of, what he thought, an incredible long flight ; but finding that he maintained it with equal facility, he attributed it to the vanity of appearing to possess superior strength and breath to the generality of birds.

The Bird still kept itself on the wing, flying as inclination led, till the Ostrich, out of all temper at being thus kept in suspense, addressed him, inviting him to earth, and requesting him to refresh himself by a few minutes repose. The bird replying, that the earth was not his element, but that nature had given him the air for his habitation, the Ostrich answered, he should remain as short a time on earth as he thought proper, but entreated to be indulged with the satisfaction of conversing with him a little. "I am not despicable," said he, "as you may perceive by the majesty and nobleness

nobleness of my figure, and the value of my feathers."

"However beautiful they may be," said the bird, "I know they do not possess the power of raising that gross, clumsy body of your's :—Remain where you are ; all communication between us is incompatible with our natures :—Know that I am the Bird of Paradise, who have no legs to visit the earth ; and your wings are too weak, tho' to appearance, ungracefully strong, to waft you into the air ; besides your food consists of the grossest and most terrestrial quality, while celestial dew forms all my repast."

M O R A L.

The worldly-minded man, blind to the future, places all his hopes and fears in the transient events of this life. The philosopher, ere it is too late, withdraws himself from its vanities, and trusting for happiness and reward above, offers the fulfilling the duties of his station to the utmost of his abilities, as an humble plea for mercy.

XXIX. Two COLTS, and their DAMS.



To reproach a child with its ignorance, is exposing your own shame, and incurring the censure of the wise for neglecting an education, which it is the peculiar duty of parents to superintend themselves.

F A B L E.

TWO beautiful Mares, distinguished by birth and merit, as superior to any in the country, brought forth two Foals at the same time: from whom, trusting to the fame of their genealogy, they entertained the highest expectations. They had scarcely reckoned two months, when they

began to form plans for educating them in a manner suitable to their rank and future employment. One of them immediately hired a groom to attend her Foal, and to instruct him, according to his strength, bringing him by degrees, from gentle exercise, to acquire vigour equal to distinguish himself in the race; to bear off the prize at the ring, and to obtain honor in the field.

The other Mare passing by, during a course her friend's Foal was practising, and seeing him, though sweating very profusely, pressed forward and urged to still greater exertions, cried out with anger, "How inhuman!—Possessed of one child only, and suffer it, when scarcely able to walk, to be tortured into a variety of postures, and trained to feats beyond its strength!—Not thus severe am I to my child; contenting myself, during its youth, with having it taught to walk with grace."

Some time after, the groom endeavouring to make the same Colt curvett, and trying to train him to the Manage, (the manœuvres of which he rapidly acquired,) this foolish Mare could not refrain from quarrelling with her friend, declaring she
acted

acted more like a jealous step-mother towards her Colt, than a mother affectionately attached: At the same time she ordered *her* Son to be brought out, who attracted general admiration: his mane, of the most brilliant whiteness, trained on the ground; his tail waved with elegance, and his trappings were, to the last degree, magnificent. With this beautiful exterior, he bore all the appearance of an animated spirit, and an unrivalled vigor.

The approbation he met with, determined his Dam to present him, in the same comparisons, at a tournament; where, as before, his beauty drew all eyes upon him, none doubting but that his success would equal the expectations his appearance created. The effect does not always answer the attempt, for scarcely did he suffer the groom to mount, before he threw him to the ground; and while his companion was gaining universal applause from the various exercises which he performed with grace and ease, this useless beauty gave his Mother's folly its reward, by kicking her each time she exhorted him to endeavor to gain some degree of praise, and to reflect some little honor upon Her. He reproached her for the disgrace her foolish fondness had drawn

upon him, since it was impossible for him to perform more than he had been taught; which, from her weakness, had been merely to walk with grace, and carry his head with dignity:

M O R A L.

An amiable and affectionate Parent cannot feel a stronger motive to exert the most zealous attention in the education of her Child, during his infancy, than the hope of being rewarded by seeing him enjoy honor and happiness in manhood:—For those who are insensible to so animated a pleasure, and whose selfishness will not suffer them to look beyond their own gratification, it is necessary to represent the education of a Child in a different light—to endeavor to convince them, that it is a strict duty imposed on them by the Almighty;—that it is a debt due to society,—and a respect to which the memory of our ancestors has a claim; to whose virtues, we cannot pay a greater deference, than by endeavoring to make them live again in their posterity.



XXX. The LION and MONKEY.



A wise Prince can never suppose himself so free from foibles, and so superior to his Subjects, as to believe every action of his life safe from the shafts of ridicule.

FABLE.

A LION, who was subject to give way to the most violent passions on the slightest provocations and who, from such repeated furies, kept his kingdom in continual dread, had nearly, by indulging this fault, forfeited his life to his exasperated subjects.

A

A Fox had observed, that when his anger was created, by lashing his tail, he irritated himself to a degree of madness, and that till he did so, his temper was, in comparison, quite mild; he therefore assembled a party of animals, to whom he communicated the observation he had made, proposing at the same time, that a method to prevent such frequent returns of rage should be deliberated upon. Some few proposed murdering him; but the majority were too loyal to admit that idea for a moment: Others thought the cutting off his tail would be the best plan, since he appeared to make use of it for the purpose of raising his choler to a higher pitch than the offence deserved; and that perhaps when deprived of that stimulus, he might become much less able to terrify his inferiors with those tremendous bursts of passion, they had so frequently experienced: Every one commended this resolution; but who was to undertake it?—Silence prevailed,—not one offered to brave so great a danger; and with great regret they were obliged to reject that scheme.

However another was suggested by the Monkey, that promised to have all the effect, without the danger attending the latter

ter; which was, with the assistance of the Dormouse, getting the Lion to sleep, and during his slumber, he would tie his tail on his back, so firmly, that his not being able, in his rage to loosen it, might prove the means of correcting his errors, without their running any risk in their own persons, or injuring the sacred one of their King.

The assembly greatly applauded the invention, which was executed so cleverly, and with so much dexterity, that the Lion did not awake till some time after it was accomplished; but when he did, as was expected, he was very highly offended at seeing himself surrounded by animals who appeared ridiculing him, and he determined instantly to chastise them for their insolence; but finding himself prevented from making use of his tail, he prudently considered that he should, by shewing resentment, only encrease the ridiculous light in which they now beheld him; therefore subduing his desire of vengeance, he treated the circumstance as a frolick, and joined in the laugh against himself.

M O R A L.

M O R A L.

A Prince is more culpable in indulging to an impetuosity of disposition than a private person, whose power not being very extensive, the fault brings the punishment with it; but unbridled passion in a Sovereign, too frequently sacrifices, as victims to his impatience, the most deserving, perhaps the most faithful, of his subjects.



XXXI

XXXI. The LAMB crowned with Flowers.



*It requires a liberal mind,—a generous heart,
—and a good understanding, to bear a
sudden rise of fortune with moderation
and affability*

F A B L E.

A SHEPHERD singled out from his flock a beautiful Lamb, on whom he fixed all his affections, feeding him from his own hands—suffering him to drink out of his own cup,—providing him with shelter from the rigor of winter, and forming, in summer, a cool arbour of the sweetest shrubs, as a retreat from the scorching rays of the sun.

The

The rest of the flock, from so great a distinction, began to think themselves slighted, and had it in contemplation to make their complaints to the Shepherd, but were prevented by one of the old ones, who represented to them, that notwithstanding the great partiality shewn to the favored Lamb, yet they could not, with any justice, accuse their master of inattention to them. "Did he not," said an old Ewe, "watch over us day and night, to protect us from the wolf?—Does he not carefully search for the best pasture to supply us with food?—and is he not anxiously solicitous to preserve our health, to which he pays daily attention?"

Such strength of reasoning they could not confute; they therefore silenced their murmurs, and paying respect to the advice of their wise parent, resolved, for the sake of their master and benefactor, to caress that Lamb which had lately created their envy and jealousy; and by that means engage the Shepherd to be more impartial in his caresses.

This good intention they practised, till the Shepherd growing attached, even to idolatry, began to decorate his wool with bows

bows of ribbon, and braids of filken cords. No longer able to bear so conspicuous a proof of distinction, all their former hatred revived with redoubled inveteracy, and giving themselves up to the gratification of their disgust, they entered into an agreement among themselves, of banishing him from their society, and flying from him wherever he appeared, except when they were obliged, from the immediate presence of their master, to associate with him.

The Shepherd, who thought he could not be too lavish towards one so much beloved, and centering in him all his happiness and all his amusement, was constantly inventing some new ornament to testify his regard : Amongst those which his foolish fondness induced him to present the Lamb with, were baubles for the ears, to which he tied them with ribbon : This completed a vanity his sense was by no means proof against, and encouraged him to request that he might have his horns gilt, and his head crowned with flowers. No sooner was he thus adorned, than the flock immediately prepared to quit their service, and the Shepherd himself, who had been hitherto blind to his follies, and had devoted to him every sentiment of affection and
every

every act of tenderness, now opened his eyes, and regarding him with the cool impartiality of reason, found his new acquired ornaments had rendered him so deformed and represented his vanity, folly, and insolence, in such a conspicuous light; that his love instantly changed into hatred, and no longer able to endure the sight of him, he forbad him ever to appear again in his presence.

M O R A L.

Those who chuse their friends merely from personal advantages, will draw from the world an imputation on their understanding, and meet, in a disappointment, the punishment due to their folly.



XXXII. The STAG and WOUNDED DOE.



Pleasure, or engagements will, by a good Christian and a humane heart, be readily sacrificed to the superior gratification of assisting a fellow-creature in distress.

F A B L E.

A STAG who had given his word that he would attend a great feast, to which a number of animals were invited, as well for pleasure, as on public business; being detained till very late by some private affairs of his own, took a short road that he might make up for the delay, and as he was swiftly pursuing his course, he heard,

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from

from behind a bush, the cries of distress; stopping a moment, he listened attentively, and approaching the place from whence he thought the sounds issued, he soon discovered a Doe pierced with an arrow, and dying for want of assistance.

“Poor beast,” said the Stag!—“Is that the only wound of which you complain?” “Yes,” replied the Doe, “in this wound consists the whole cause of my grief; the iron, which remains in the flesh, will soon occasion my death,” “Comfort yourself,” said the Stag, “I shall soon have the pleasure of curing you, if you have courage to permit me to try, I know of an infallible medicine, though you imagine yourself passed hopes.”

He then expatiated on the virtues of the Dittany, which had the power of drawing out the iron by opening the wound; and accurately describing both the herb, and the part of the country where it was to be found, recommended her to go immediately in search of it, and apply it to the part affected: Thus instructed, the poor Doe, made a vain attempt to practise this advice, but the excruciating pain, and loss of blood she had suffered, rendered her perfectly

ly

ly unequal, even to the change of her place, which being observed by the Stag, it drove from his memory, feast, company, pleasure, and business; interested only for the life of a fellow-creature, he flew himself in search of this valuable herb, and returning with the utmost expedition, applied it to her side, where in a short time, the iron, as if drawn by great force, flew out of the wound, leaving the Doe almost overcome with gratitude and joy.

After thanking the Stag very affectionately, and attempting to express the sense she entertained of so important a service, finding the pain very much abated, she returned slowly home, blessing the Stag; while he, no less gratified, felt highly rewarded for the trifling sacrifice of an agreeable engagement.

M O R A L.

Sovereigns should not esteem themselves exempt from giving, even personal assistance, and fulfilling that claim which one christian has a right to expect from another; however mean of birth the one, and elevated in rank is the other whose attention is required.

XXXIII, The GENTLEMAN, and the
HARES and RABBITS.

Prejudiced by names which bear authority, little-minded people are awed into terror by the presence of kings, magistrates, and superiors, fancying them like beasts of prey : To remove such prejudices among the vulgar, and to give them confidence, is the duty of a sovereign and his servants ; to effect which, a king should often gratify his people with his presence, and receive them with a dignity tempered by mildness, that shall court their affection, and remove their fears, without lessening their respect ; he should also make choice of such magistrates, as will, by proving themselves protectors

teftors of their peace, convince his people that their king watches, like a tender father, over their rights and priveleges; then will the names of the great be mentioned with pleasure and refpect, instead of fear and difgult,

F A B L E.

WHETHER a tyger, a bear, or a lion, had made their appearance, with hostile intent in the country; or that a general terror had fuddenly taken poffeffion of the hearts of the animals, naturally timid, is the moft certain way of accounting for the panic, which fspread all over the foreft, was never decided; but fuch was the fear of fome impending danger, that Hares, Rabbits, Deer, &c. dared not venture to leave their coverts; and what encreafed their fright was, that fome, as is generally the cafe, liftening only to the dictates of fear, imagined fome dreadful catastrophe, and reported as true, that there was a monftrous beaft arrived in the foreft, without particularifing its form, which depopulated all the country, laying it wafte wherever it was fure of not meeting with refiftance, and added to injuftice, the moft unheard-of cruelty; not contented with murdering whomever he met with,

but afterwards sucking their blood, and throwing their carcasses into the lay-stalls, as a shock to friends and relations who might unfortunately see them.

As these terror-struck little animals were assembled to form some plan to save themselves from the ruin with which they were threatened, a young Gentleman appeared all of a sudden, mounted on a managed Horse of Spain, who amused himself with making him passage. A Rabbit was the first who discovered him, and taking him for a Centaur, immediately gave the alarm, imagining it to be the dreadful Monster that had been predicted; at the same time fled to give warning of the approach of their furious enemy, which was so rapidly communicated to all parties, that none doubted the truth of the former report; but all concealed themselves under the first shelter they could meet with.

While they were all suffering under the most painful suspense, as a Deer and a few Rabbits were hid behind some bushes near the supposed Monster, they had an opportunity of observing him: He still continued amusing himself with exercising his horse through the manœuvres of the
Manage

Manage, now Curvetting, now Piafering; then Passaging right and left, vaulting, retreating, advancing; all with a grace, ease, and composure that evidently proved his design was amusement, not hostility, which encouraged them to leave their coverts and advance to take a nearer view of this strange Phænomenon; when they were surprised at the beauty of his face,—the amiable expression of his countenance,—the grace and dignity of his form and manners, more deserving of the highest admiration; more likely to create love and adoration, than horror and hatred; and gaining courage from the mildness and benignity of his aspect, they could not contain their admiration; but calling their companions, condemned their own folly & pusillanimous timidity, in making as an object of dread, an animal, the soft majesty of whose figure entitled him to be esteemed a Deity by the whole forest.

M O R A L.

This fable admitting of two constructions, in order to render it more instructive to young minds, the affinity of the two morals is waved; to explain here, the additional light in which the fable may be viewed.—Where ever reason is exerted, the vapour which fear has thrown

over an object, will, of course, soon evaporate; by teaching, (or rather accustoming) children early in life to decide by the medium of their judgment, they will acquire coolness and resolution to investigate the cause of a momentary fear, instead of blindly submitting themselves to the powerful influence of superstition, the invader of peace and happiness, and the rival of wisdom; the seeds of which are scarcely, even in this informed age, rooted out, tho' it is proved to be the bane of society.



XXXIV. The SHEPHERD, SHEPHERDESS, and WORMS.



Live a good life, and rob death of its terrors:—Live well, and death will be merely a transition from sublunary pleasures to certain and endless happiness.

F A B L E.

A SHEPHERD and Shepherdess, who had for some time experienced all the happiness resulting from reciprocal and unabating love, were suddenly parted forever by that remorseless tyrant, death, who visited the Shepherdess as she lay asleep on a bank, under the form of a serpent, from whose sting she expired, leaving her beloved Shepherd inconsolable for her loss.

He

He, after paying the tribute of unavailing tears, determined to give a more solid proof of his regret, by erecting a little monument to his ever-beloved, ever-lamented Amaranthus, which he visited every day, carrying with him the various flowers of the season, to deck her tomb; added to that attention, he made it a duty to keep it perfectly clean, preventing every kind of animal from approaching it, fearful of its being contaminated with their filth.

One day, as he was, according to custom, hanging over the wreck of all his happiness, and destroying with his crook, the worms which came out of the coffin, he heard something like the voice of discontent; and lending an attentive ear, he heard one, which he had just bruised, pronounce these words: "Miserable Shepherd, do not act thus cruelly to Amaranthus, once so tenderly beloved: The worms which you crush, thinking you do me service, are, in fact, a part of myself; and if you have difficulty in believeng me, remove the stone which covers me."

The Shepherd had no sooner lifted it up, than he saw innumerable worms come out, and disfigure the once lovely face of his
Amaranthus

Amaranthus ; addressing him very distinctly in these words : “ Respect my memory, —cherish a love for my virtues ; but forget the form I once was : remembering, at the same time, that Thyrsis will one day be what Amaranthus is now.” These last words sunk so deep into his mind, added to the unalleviated affliction at his loss, that neglecting his flock, he gave up every thought and hope to that of joining his Amaranthus.

M O R A L.

Vanity, pride, and rivalry would cease to prevail, did the encouragers of those passions meditate over the silent tomb : But youth has its errors, and claims its excuses ; age alone deserves severity and contempt, which turning from its approaching doom, thinks to cheat time and death, by aping the follies, without displaying the generous virtue of youth ; disgracing grey hairs, and disgusting Society.



XXXV. The AGED HORSE, and the LAME ONE.



That being surely has a claim both upon our protection and our tenderness, to whom we have unfortunately (though perhaps unintentionally) occasioned pain or grief: how depraved then must the heart be, which, deaf to the calls of humanity, insults the person he has injured, and treats with contempt, one with whose misery he has to reproach himself: Such characters, to the disgrace of human nature, do exist:—Go thou, and do otherwise.

F A B L E.

A

A Remarkable fine Horse, but unfortunately so extremely lame in one leg, as to be passed all hope of cure, was conducting to a lay-stall, by a rough unfeeling groom, when he met an old Spanish Horse, with whom, in more prosperous days, when was he esteemed an ornament to the army, he had been very intimate. The Spanish Horse immediately recollected his old acquaintance, and struck with his dejected countenance, tenderly enquired the cause of his affliction.

To which the other answered: "You are well acquainted with the great and important services I have rendered my master, by procuring him victory in every tournament, pleasure in the chace, and honor in the field of battle. Two months since, we ran a Stag, in which exercise he continued me beyond my strength, but knowing his eagerness in the chace, and his impetuosity of temper, I had not the courage to complain, but persevered in the pursuit, till perfectly exhausted, and overcome with fatigue, I fell, in endeavoring to leap a ditch, and broke my leg.

I had not been at home a fortnight before my master, at the instigation of this
cruel

cruel groom, whose avarice wished to sacrifice me for the profit of my skin, ordered him to lead me to the lay-stall, forgetting in one moment, years of faithful services and zealous friendship, in contributing both to his honor, glory, and happiness.

The big tear of compassion rolled down the generous face of the Spanish Steed, while he listened to his friend's affecting complaints, and he deeply regretted he could not ensure to his distressed acquaintance the good fortune fate had allotted himself; "for though," said he, "it is no longer in my power to render him, even half those services, which in my best days, were inadequate to his goodness, yet this generous master pitying my infirmities, endeavours to soften the severity with which old age advances, enabling me, in some measure, to combat its rigour, by the tenderest attention to my health, feeding me with the same liberality, as when I was equal to earning my food; and having me carefully bathed, and constantly attended every day: Nor does he confine his attentions to the preservation of my life alone, but by his flattering praises on the abilities of my youth, his kind caresses, and the entertainment of being, when the weather
is

is fine, thus led out to enjoy the air, he leaves my grateful heart without a wish ungratified.

Scarcely had he time to finish those last words, when the inhuman groom tired with waiting so long, forced, with severe blows, his victim to proceed about a hundred steps, where, to the grief of the Spanish Horse, he saw his old friend murdered and flayed.

M O R A L.

There are few who esteem a domestic after they have lost the power of serving them ; and there are still fewer who love a friend when he no longer gratifies their self-love.



XXXVI. OF ARMED ANIMALS.



The first idea that should be inculcated in a soldier, is, that all depends upon his courage; for an army may rest its hopes of success more upon the unanimity of the officers, and the courage, intrepid coolness, and implicit obedience of the soldiers; than on the force of numbers; which proves how necessary it is for a good general to be a disciplinarian.

F A B L E.

A Leopard, grown proud of the character of bravery, which a lucky conquest

quest acquired him, thought to add to his consequence, by giving defiance to his King, and arrogantly usurping, by force of arms, a part of the country which was particularly appropriated, by the Lion, to his own use.

He was seconded, as is generally the case, by those, who, either mistaking their own interest, wished to gratify a rebellious spirit; or, being idle, made the doing of mischief (the natural consequence of idleness) both an employment and a pleasure. The Leopard's army consisted of all the malecontents of the forest, which amounting to a vast number, gave him the most sanguine hopes of success; but the Lion, more wise, and better experienced, determined to avail himself of a dear-bought lesson, which the loss of a late battle had taught him, and recollecting that his former ill success proceeded from recruiting none but those who possessed weapons of offence alone, resolved to admit those only, who could boast of defensive ones also.

According to this resolution he assembled those of his subjects on whom he could depend, chusing from the numbers which flocked to his standard, the Rhinoceros,

L

defended

defended by an impenetrable shield of scales,—the Crocodile,—the Hedge-Hog—Porcupine, and Tortoise, no less fortified for defence; besides innumerable other animals, on whom nature had bestowed an armour for protection against the attacks of their Enemies.

Thus supported, the Lion, fearless of the superiority of numbers, undauntedly met his antagonist, and after bravely sustaining the violence of the first onset of so powerful an army, his well-disciplined, well-defended troops, soon turned the fate of the battle; for suffering his adversaries to exhaust their strength and spirit, while they themselves acted only upon the defensive, he watched the time, when the army of the Leopard, elated with the hopes of having daunted his forces,—deaf to the voice of command,—and trusting to their own skill, would lay themselves open to a defeat.

This soon happened, and the Lion as quickly made his advantage of it; for he attacked them with a fury which the coolness and firmness that his troops had at first expressed, and which his enemies had mistaken for cowardice, rendered so perfectly unexpected;

pected; that it instantly occasioned the confusion of the Leopard's army, which immediately taking flight was warmly pursued, and entirely banished the forest; and the victorious troops, enriched with the spoils of the conquered party, returned home in triumph.

M O R A L.

A good cause inspires troops with confidence: it is, therefore, the duty of a general to render himself beloved, by friendly acts, and a liberal attention to his soldiers;—to render himself feared, by the strictness of his discipline, and to make himself chearfully obeyed, by conforming to that discipline himself: Thus will soldiers follow their leader, in the persuasion that the cause he espouses must be right, and that under such a commander success awaits them.



XXXVII. The HAWK and PEACOCK.



*A false friend, indifferent to your welfare,
—an enemy to your interest, and attentive
only to his own, feels no compunction in
adding treachery to deceit, by enriching
himself at your expence.*

F A B L E.

A HAWK having frequently admired the rich plumes which adorned the tail of the Peacock, contracted a friendship with that bird, hoping to turn the affluence of his dress to some account. His warm professions of friendship and apparently sincere assurances of esteem, caused the

the Peacock to admit this sycophant to all that unreserve and familiarity allowed to long-chosen friends.

About the beginning of that season when birds drop their feathers, the Hawk chose to exert the influence he had acquired, by flattery and servility, over his new friend ; and going to him early one morning, earnestly, but very respectfully, requested him to give him a few of those feathers which were no longer of use to him, that he might appear with more dignity at a wedding to which he was going. The Peacock esteeming the request as a compliment paid to his extraordinary beauty, presented them to the Hawk with all the grace of satisfied vanity.

Two days after, the Hawk again called on his friend for the same purpose, and was as liberally treated. In the evening he returned in haste, and with great eagerness, entreated to have a few more of those which were not loose. The Peacock felt surprised and offended, but not knowing what pressing occasion might render him so urgent, he concealed his indignation, and generously shook his tail several times, to supply the avarice of his friend.

Two Pidgeons, who saw the transaction, were charmed with the generosity testified by the Peacock, and no less sensible than the Hawk, of his beauty, they could not resist the temptation of begging a few of those feathers which graced his head, and formed his elegant crest: As they dropped, he presented them with pleasure: the Pidgeons received them with gratitude, and wore them as a testimony of their respect for the doner.

At this time the Hawk returned, and, feeling he could not renew his petition with propriety but still wishing for more, threw off the mask, and gravely told the Peacock, that unless he gave him those plumes which still remained, his former gifts would be too useless to deserve, even his thanks, much less entitle him to his friendship.

The Peacock, depending upon the Hawk's regard, thought he could not give a more weighty reason to his dear friend, for refusing him, than by describing the bodily pain which the obliging him would create; but the Hawk, cruel by nature, —devoid of pity, and incapable of feeling remorse at sacrificing friends, foes, or relations, to gratify himself, no longer condescended

descended to entreat, but in great anger threw himself upon the Peacock, tearing them from him with violence, regardless of the wounds his powerful beak inflicted; and this he did with such fury, that it was with the utmost difficulty the peacock escaped from him.

Just were his reproaches on his ingratitude:—"Observe, false friend!—despicable sycophant! those two Pidgeons," said he, "who esteem themselves, for a few trifling feathers, under so great an obligation; while you, for whom I have stript myself, and to whose request I never said nay, till no longer able to grant it, deny the friendship you have experienced, and rob your benefactor of all he possesses! May the Gods revenge my cause!—Your ingratitude is too great for my power to punish, —yourself too worthless for my pride to resent;—exemplary should be your chastisement!

M O R A L.

Interested persons are incapable of friendship; self-love, vanity, and avarice occupying their whole soul, leave every avenue guarded against the entrance of so generous a sentiment—so noble a virtue as friendship.

XXXVIII. The OLD DOG and the LION.



So seldom is it the good fortune of a Prince to meet with Servants zealously attached, as much to his honor and happiness as a Man, as they feel indulgent to his foibles as a Prince, that such Servants should not be removed on the representation of others.

F A B L E.

A LION, who had ruled for many years with all the fame due to justice, clemency and prudence, finding himself approaching towards his end, more from animated exertions for the welfare of his state than from age, ordered the son he intended

tended to leave as his successor, to be brought into his presence, that he might, by salutary advice on his future conduct, fulfil the only duty that, now, remained unperformed.

He particularly urged an implicit obedience to his advice in two material points, which would ensure peace to his kingdom, and happiness to himself: one of which was; never to undertake any affairs of consequence, or hazard any enterprise, without first consulting his mother, whose wisdom and experience would prove an unerring guide: The second, to continue in office those old servants in whose long-tried faith he would find the best security, and whose abilities, courage and diligence, had gained them both applause and distinction in his own reign: He therefore made no doubt the young Lion would, by paying respect to their counsels, and honoring their virtues, strengthen the kingdom; for faithful subjects must ever be esteemed the pillars of the state.

Scarcely had the old Lion paid the debt of nature, than a tyger, a bear, and a fox, that had, for some time past, been the inveterate enemies of a large Dog, who was
appointed

appointed guard to the royal cavern, whispered into the young King's ear, suspicions of this aged servant; at the same time recommending him to make choice of a younger guard, whose strength and vigor would render him a better defence than the other's very advanced age, could possibly admit: besides, he was, from the too great indulgence of his late master, (who was blindly partial) grown so extremely uncertain in his temper, that sometimes he would caress, and the very next moment testify the utmost fury at those who approached the cave: Added to which, his back was covered with the rewards of his frequent clamours; not to mention among his innumerable faults, the disturbance and nuisance he was to the neighbourhood.

The young Lion, imposed upon by their plausibility, and gained upon by the appearance of truth, was on the point of discharging this faithful Subject, and appointing another to his post; but suddenly recollecting the sacred injunction of his father, he immediately applied to the Lioness, and informing her of the accusations alledged against the old Dog, and the shadow of reason by which he had been almost tempted to remove him, begged her advice
how

how to act : to which he received the following answer : "It is, my son, merely the shadow of reason indeed ! for no substantial one can they offer for removing your uncorruptible guard, except to establish themselves on his destruction and your ruin ; but, like many deceitful people, they have overshot their mark, and while they thought they were convincing you of his worthlessness, they were enumerating those virtues which so particularly render him deserving the trust reposed in him."

"Be assured he caresses only those well known to be faithful to you ; and if he growls, it is against those who are rebels in their hearts, and only want for power to dethrone you : His barking at night is a proof of his vigilance and watchfulness ; and his bearing on his body the scars of many wounds, redounds greatly to his honor, and signalizes him for bravery as well as loyalty, in preferring his duty to you, to his own life : If he never goes out, he gives the highest testimony of his unshaken attachment to you, well knowing he could not find another to whose fidelity he could, with satisfaction to himself, trust your sacred person ; therefore he sacrifices every consideration in devoting himself to the
defence

defence of your majesty : And if he makes himself heard by his neighbours, he performs a public service, giving the alarm on the approach of danger : In short, cowardice is not natural to him, and he still possesses teeth to execute any deeds his valor shall dictate, and to resist any attacks that may be offered him”.

The Lion perfectly convinced by his mother's reasoning, and rejoicing at having consulted her, declared that during his life, the old dog should be his friend,—his guard and companion ; whose age should be crowned with honors, and cherished with tendernefs.

M O R A L.

It is not thirst of fame,—it is not a laudable ambition, (however the mean and artful may endeavor, under those high-sounding expressions, to veil their dark designs, for such must be termed the diabolical artifice) that builds a fortune on another man's ruin, undermining his character to gratify their own avarice and insatiable pride : Such have been called, and very properly, the leeches of the state.

XXXIX. The Fox, the Wolf, and
the LAMBS.

There is no nation, however uncivilized ; no people, however barbarous, but inherit, from nature, a love of justice, and form a tribunal for the impartial dispensation of it.

F A B L E.

ALL the Animals agreed to sit in judgement in turn, hoping that then there would be few opportunities for bribing, and fewer for corruption. About this time the Fox became Judge, when a suit was brought before him, wherein the Wolf was plaintiff

plaintiff against some Lambs, whom their mother, he urged, when dying, had left to his guardianship: but, as her entrusting them to the care of their natural enemy, carried in it very little appearance of truth, the Wolf thought it advisable to bribe the Fox; promising when he was Judge, to acquit him of all the thefts he committed in the farmers' yards, and all the murders he perpetrated on the poultry.

There being only two witnesses wanting, but these being particularly requisite, in so bad a cause, to give, at least, a colour of justice, he corrupted a Kite and a Vulture, by promising that when the Lambs were killed, they should have the entrails and offals. One of the Lambs being interrogated, and ordered to give in her defence against two respectable witnesses, said, with tears in her eyes, that her mother never would have committed them to the care of the Wolf, had she had time to make her will; but was prevented from any such decision by the premature death, the Wolf had, himself, inflicted upon her.

The Wolf firing up, at these last words, loudly called for punishment and redress, for such a scandalous aspersion of his character

rafter; but the Fox pretending to favor the Lambs, refused to inflict any punishment, yet at the same time, consigned them to the care of the Wolf, since such was the last decree of their mother.

M O R A L.

A vicious person thinks you indebted to him, if he does not do all the harm he has it in his power to inflict.



XL. The BLIND BEAR and BEES.



The depravity of human nature is such, that instances have been known, where professed friends have refused that relief, which has afterwards been afforded by an enemy.

F A B L E.

A BEAR, unfortunately becoming blind, occasioned great distress to his family; every endeavor was exerted both by his relations and friends to cure him; and they were, to appearance, very zealous in seeking for medicines, of which they anxiously applied several, without effect: Great dependance they placed in the dwarf Alder

der, which being particularly recommended, they made a bath of it, in which they repeatedly bathed his head; that also failed, and in failing of success, discovered the motive which induced them to interest themselves so warmly; which was, the fear of the world's condemning them, if they forsook him, and the little inclination they had to nurse and attend him, when he was no longer able to be of service to them, but on the contrary, would prove an insupportable trouble.

Such being their sentiments, the opinion of the world soon ceased to have any weight, and they entirely forsook him, with the exception of one or two, not yet hardened against the shame of such a conduct; and who, in the momentary pride of appearing so much more noble-minded than the others, had sworn never to quit him: Just as they had finished professions which, by appearing in a comparative view, they thought would enhance their merits to the world; a swarm of Bees issued from the trunk of a tree, and put to flight these sincere and faithful friends, who in their own safety, forgot the deplorable and unprotected situation of the poor forsaken blind Bear.

M

As

As soon as he found himself alone, and perfectly deserted, devoid of every comfort and every support, labouring under the most dreadful calamity, which disabled him from escaping the attacks of those tormenting tho' diminutive little animals, he raised his eyes to heaven, deploring his miserable condition, and not doubting, but the exquisite pain he felt would soon terminate his life; whereas, on the contrary, the sting of the Bees, piercing through the film which covered the eye, occasioned an eruption of that body of matter which caused his blindness, and so perfectly cured him, that once more seeing light, he cried out in transport; "Thanks to the Gods! who have not only restored me to my bodily sight, but to my mental one also, by discovering the falsity of my friends, and teaching me, according to their command, to respect my enemies; who may in reality boast of those virtues, which my deceitful friends were indebted to my blind partiality, for appearing to possess."

M O R A L.

To bear affliction with fortitude, reflects honor, and dignifies adversity.

F I N I S.



